

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-13

LD 39 #6

Singing: 381:1-4 – 309:1-4 -- 290:6-7 – 281:1 – 425:2, 3

Intro: Parental disappointment in children can be due

A. Unrealistic expectations

B. Unbiblical methods using the wrong instrument

1. Though the law is good, it is powerless to change the heart of the convict

2. The instrument to change the heart is the Gospel

Honor My Authority (4)

I. As you exercise it **as parents** II. As you respond to it

I. God's calling for parents (Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21)

A. We are not to provoke them *wrath or discouragement*

1. What does this mean?

a. Not: *spare the rod that might anger them*

- see God's examples: Gen 4; Lev. 26:27-28; Heb. 12:6; Prov. 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14

b. But: *do all to make obedience to authority easier* (Eph. 5:22-25)

2. Two methods or manners that *provoke to anger or discourage children*

a. whatever *provokes* the *child's spirit* instead of target *child's sin*

b. Treating all *disobedience* as purposeful rebellion

B. We are to 'bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.'

1. Bring them up (compare with 5:29)

2. Nurture: *training by our actions* (Heb. 12: 5, 7, 8)

3. Admonition: *training by our words* (Luke 15; 22:25-27; 31-32)

Closing: Parenting children is often God's way of parenting us to come to Jesus!

Gems on Family Life

The best test of a sanctified man is to ask his wife and children about him.

Love is the master key to a happy home.

Money can build the most beautiful house,
but it takes love to make it a home.

I learned more about Christianity from my mother
than from all the theologians of England. (Wesley)

The most influential of all educational factors
is the attitude to and conversation about God in the home. (William Temple)

I would give nothing for that man's religion
whose very dog and cat are not the better of it. (Rowland Hill)