

Godly Fathers Ephesians 6:4

Context and Introduction:

1. The Apostle Paul follows his familiar pattern as in other epistles by laying out first sound doctrine then making practical application... see *Ephesians 1:1 ff cf. Ephesians 5:1 ff...*
2. Note Paul's emphasis upon the family... Instruction in the marriage relationship, *Ephesians 5:22-23*... Instruction for children, *Ephesians 6:1-3*

I. The Position and Vital Importance of Fathers in the Raising of Their Children...

- A. Mothers and Fathers are to both be engaged...** *Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 1:8; 6:20*

Observations:

- B. Paul's Focus in Upon Fathers...** *Ephesians 6:4 cf. Colossians 3:21*

1. His concern is that "fathers not neglect or abuse their children..."
2. It's an awesome responsibility to be a father...
3. The Bible clearly teaches the husband's headship in the home...

Observation: This view is not politically correct!

4. Men and women are different...and fathers must guard against being overbearing and harsh...

II. What a Godly Father Must Not Do... "Father's do not provoke your children to anger..."

- A. The meaning of the phrase...** "...provoke to anger..."

Think of words like; embitter, enrage, exasperate, demoralize...

- B. The Father's authority in the home must be exercise with care and wisdom...**

- C. It doesn't mean to let children have their way...**

- D. It does mean to be helpers of their joy...** *II Corinthians 1:24*

- E. There are sad consequences associated with "exasperating children..."** *Col. 3:21*

Application: Positive instruction to prevent provoking our children to anger...

1. Be measured and consistent...
2. Be clear in your actions and verbal communications...
3. Be Real!
4. Be an example to emulate...
5. Be positive and quick and free with encouragement...
6. Be alert...
7. Stay engaged...
8. Pray without ceasing...