

DISCIPLESHIP in the HOME

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The greatest joys you will experience in life will probably involve your children or grandchildren. The greatest heartaches you will experience in life will probably involve your children or grandchildren. Therefore, we would be wise to give careful attention to what God's Word, the Bible, has to say about this important subject. Ephesians 6:4, my primary text, has five phrases that God wants to guide your thinking about parenting:

The Goal: "BRING THEM UP"

1. "Bring up" means to _____ up to maturity, to nurture, to rear up. The word is not confined to the nourishing of a child physically, but includes training in the various departments of life.
2. The goal of parenting is to _____ our children to love Christ, obey His Word, and function as independent adults who think and act biblically. Put simply, it is seeking to make a disciple of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28-18-20).

Key Strategy: "IN THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD"

1. This phrase refers to the _____, training and instruction of a child, particularly by act, discipline and correction.
2. It involves providing boundaries for a child and penalties for going _____ the boundaries.
3. The goals are _____ development and equipping for life in a world full of boundaries.
4. God uses this kind of _____ with His children (Hebrews 12:5-11)

Key Strategy: "IN THE INSTRUCTION OF THE LORD"

1. Three _____ are involved in this kind of instruction:
 - A. Discerning thinking and behavior God wants to change (1 Thessalonians 5:14)
 - B. Using God's Word, by verbal means, to change that thinking and behavior (Romans 15:14)
 - C. Doing this for the child's benefit and the glory of God (1 Corinthians 4:14)
2. The _____ are character development and equipping the child to think and act biblically on his own. The desire is that the child not only knows what is right but will have the spiritual convictions to do what is right.

3. Ten Scriptural _____ children need to be taught:

- A. The Bible is the inspired Word of God and the final authority for my life. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- B. My purpose in life is to seek God with my whole heart and to build my goals around His priorities. (2 Corinthians 5:9-10; 1 Corinthians 10:31)
- C. My body is the living temple of God and must not be defiled by the lusts of the flesh. (Mark 7:21-23; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; 1 Peter 2:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)
- D. My church must teach the foundational truths of Scripture and reinforce my basic convictions (Matthew 7:15, 16; 2 Corinthians 6:14-17; 1 Peter 4:17)
- E. My children and grandchildren belong to God, and it is my responsibility to teach them Scriptural principles, godly character, and basic convictions. (Deut. 6:6-7; 1 Thess. 2:11)
- F. My activities must never weaken the Scriptural convictions of another Christian. (Exodus 20:13; Proverbs 28:10; Matthew 18:6; Romans 14:13)
- G. Marriage is a covenant relationship between a man and a woman and my marriage will be a lifelong commitment to God and to my marriage partner. (Gen. 2:24-25; Romans 7:2-3)
- H. My money is a trust from God and must be earned and managed according to Scriptural principles. (Exodus 20:15; Deuteronomy 8:18; Proverbs 15:6; Luke 16:11; 1 Timothy 6:10)
- I. My words must be in harmony with Scripture, especially when reproofing and restoring a Christian brother. (Eph. 4:25-32; Proverbs 15:28, 18:21, 25:9; Galatians 6:1)
- J. My affections must be set on things above, not on things on the earth. (Matt. 6:19-21)

The One Most Responsible: "FATHERS"

- 1. The children are _____ Dad's responsibility.
- 2. _____ of the husband is a key Bible doctrine (Ephesians 5:22-25).
- 3. _____ holds fathers primarily responsible (1 Samuel 2:12, 22-25; 3:11-13).
- 4. A primary _____ of fathering is to be there physically, mentally and emotionally.
- 5. _____ are to be involved (Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 1:8, 9; 1 Timothy 5:10; Ephesians 6:1). While fathers have the greatest responsibility for the children mothers frequently have the greatest influence.

The Tendency to Avoid: "DO NOT PROVOKE YOUR CHILDREN TO ANGER"

- 1. This does _____ mean never upset, annoy, oppose, anger, displease or cross a child (1 Samuel 3:11-13; Proverbs 22:15; Hebrews 12:5-11).
- 2. It _____ mean we should not handle them in such a way that they will be incited to a wrathful kind of living and become angry young men and women.
- 3. The warning is not about an _____ of anger, but about a lifestyle of anger.
- 4. The Bible speaks primarily of two _____ of anger (1 Samuel 15:23; Ephesians 4:31).