

Father's Day
Part III
"Bringing up the Kids"
June 30, 2013
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Good morning, Lighthouse!

Today's message is Father's Day Part III.

Ephesians 6:1-4

- 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
- 2 Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;
- 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.
- 4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Today, being the last Sunday of the month, as is our practice, there will be no Kings Kids or 10:14 Children's Worship. This is the one Sunday a month that the kids stay in "Big Church" and practice what it is like to sit and pay attention to the preaching of God's Word.

Today's message will be short, concise and to the point.

It comes, however, with a warning. These kids listen far better than we think they do. Even when they are fiddling with papers or coloring

or appearing not to be listening at all; their little minds are soaking up what they hear like little sponges. So be warned. They are going to hear what the Lord requires of you on their behalf; from the man of God, preaching from the Word of God; in terms they will understand.

That means that tomorrow you may hear things like, “Daddy, why don’t we go to Church every Sunday like the Bible says we should?”

Today, after a wonderful and very successful week of Vacation Bible School, we are going to home in on verse 4 and take a careful look at what the Lord is commanding you parents; especially you dads concerning your children; which in reality, are His children that are assigned to you for the raising.

First, look with me at the last line of the verse; you are to bring them up in:

I. The nurture and admonition of the Lord.

This speaks to the things that only the Lord can give your kids; essential things that you cannot give them but must see to it that they receive.

A. First is the nurture of the Lord.

1. This is the Greek word:

paideia

pahee-di'-ah

From [G3811](#); *tutorage*, that is, *education or training*; by implication *disciplinary correction*: - chastening, chastisement, instruction, nurture.

2. This is precisely the reason we have a Vacation Bible School and a Sunday School and a Kings Kids and a Club 10:14 Bible Class and a Worship 10:14 and an AWANA Bible Club and a Youth Group and a Youth Camp and a Junior Youth Camp and an SOS program and a Pre-School and other various Children's Ministry programs from time to time upon which we spend a tremendous amount of labor and money.

3. As you just read, God placed you fathers responsible for the spiritual education of your children; not the Church.

4. All these programs and ministry is not your Church doing the job for you; this is your Church providing you with the tools to do the job well.

5. You parents; and you, Dad, in particular, are not simply to be included in this endeavor; God has placed you at the head of this effort.

(Let me just take a moment to commend the men; the high percentage of real men in our Church who do not just sit back and let somebody else do what God called real men and real dads to do; real men really do love Jesus!)

6. This dad responsibility speaks to the discipline every one of us need in our lives.

7. This speaks to taking charge and making sure these tools get used.

8. This speaks to the kind of example that does not undo what our children's exposure to God's Word accomplishes.

B. Next is the admonition of the Lord.

1. nouthesia

noo-thes-ee'-ah

From [G3563](#) and a derivative of [G5087](#); calling *attention* to, that is, (by implication) mild *rebuke* or *warning*: - admonition.

2. If you as one of God's adult children have headed down a wrong path; a situation in which we all occasionally find ourselves; you have undoubtedly learned that God knows how to get your attention.

3. God promises to discipline every one of His Children.

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

4. First comes the mild warning of correction, which is the chastening or admonition.

5. If that does not adjust our course, then comes the more attention-getting painful variation, which is the scourging.
6. What God does for you, His adult children; you are to do for these little ones.
7. Their correction may come by your hand but **it is from** the Lord; just like later in life; it may come by the hand of the policeman or the judge or the prison system; but it is then from the Lord as well.
8. Some of you may be thinking, “How is this educating and discipline ‘of the Lord’, but I am the one supposed to accomplish it!”
9. Simple; you are God’s instrument, God’s primary minister to your children to see to it that they are educated in truth about Jesus; a task for which we will be held accountable.

Now let’s go back to the first part of the verse:
And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath:

II. Provoke not.

A. Provocation can occur without your even realizing it.

1. Some of you guys grew up teasing the dog and teasing the cat until you made them mean and now you are teasing your kids.

2. I have a simple instruction for you; “Don’t do that!”

3. You and your children will pay heavy consequences for it down the road.

B. One very helpful key to preventing this is ‘moderation’.

1. **Philippians 4:5** Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord *is* at hand.

2. Often translated ‘gentleness’, this word means ‘what is appropriate’.

3. Every little kid likes to be tickled; but too much tickling turns tears of joy into tears of pain and anger.

4. We all like ice cream; but without limits it turns to obesity and diabetes.

5. Too much TV, too much time playing video games, too much sports, too much fun of any kind without balancing with chores and responsibility and reading and other beneficial activities create negative traits in us that can take a lifetime to correct.

6. Some things you allow your children to be exposed to are simply just wrong; wrong TV and wrong video and wrong music and the wrong kind of crowd can and do provoke your children to evil.

7. Jesus said: **Matthew 15:17-19**

17 Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?

18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

8. What goes into their mouth comes and goes; but what goes into their little minds never leaves; it creates in their heart good or evil.

9. Creating good in the heart requires effort; creating evil requires no effort at all, it just comes naturally.

Proverb 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left *to himself* bringeth his mother to shame.

Next:

III. So, how do you expose them to what they need the most?

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: **but bring them up in** the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Here are three keys:

A. *Bring them.*

1. It is the opposite of 'send them'.
2. Kids, does God in the Bible really say that daddy and mommy ought to bring you to God's house every Sunday?
3. How about I read it to you?

Hebrews 10:21-25

21 And *having* a high priest over the house of God;

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*. and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

B. *Up.*

1. Up, as in the opposite of down! You need to provide a positive environment for your kids.
2. We just read that Jesus is the High Priest, He is the head over his house; Jesus runs this place.

3. He sends the messages and we preach them.
4. Yes, the Lord warns us against sin; He hates it because it harms us.
5. But the Lord has far more to say about what we can do and what we can be and how we can succeed and how we can prosper than what we can't do!
6. Why is that? Because it is doing right that brings success; because it is doing right that replaces the sin that destroys us.
7. We don't want to just teach your kids that they can be anything they want to be; we want to teach your kids something far better than that!
8. We are going to teach you kids that they can become exactly what God created them to be; and know for sure what that is!
9. Rakeem; ten years ago when we moved to this location some little kids from the neighborhood behind us started coming over here and shooting baskets with brother Jaime on Friday nights.
10. While his peers are off doing the gang thing and all the other garbage that is out there; this young man is going off to Bible College this fall because we have been telling him and showing

him for ten years what he can be instead of what he can't be!

11. Rakeem, God has great plans for you, my friend!

C. In.

1. Don't just bring them to Church; keep them **in** Church!
2. How many of you here this morning were raised in a real Bible preaching Church?
3. Any of you sorry you were raised in Church?
4. Bring your kids up in Church; as a part, not just a spectator.
5. When they get saved and then follow the Lord in Believer's Baptism, they will be functioning members of their Church, which is the Body of Christ.
6. That equates to blessing and favor with God and opportunities and protection that I couldn't do justice to properly describing if we stayed here all day.

In Conclusion:

This week some of these kids understood who Jesus is and what Jesus has done for them for the very first time.

They understood how sin has destroyed us and they learned that when Jesus died in our place on that Roman cross that He paid for our sins; in full and all of them!

They learned from God's Word that to receive this great benefit called salvation, eternal life, forgiveness; all God requires is that we place our trust in His own Son.

Oh, we are taught to trust in Jesus for many things; but trusting Him for the forgiveness of our sins is the first and most important of all.

How about you? Have you trusted Jesus to save you from your sins?

There is a television program called "Are you smarter than a 5th grader?"

If that 5th grader knows Jesus and you don't, I can definitely give you the answer to that question!