

Gospelized Fatherhood (Ephesians 6:4)

I. Introduction

- A. Luther's father – a model of bad parenting
- B. The text – Eph 6:4
- C. The context – textual and cultural
- D. Gospelized parenting vs. Talmudized parenting systems
- E. Outline of sermon

II. *Fathers ...*

- A. The responsibility
 - 1. Fatherhood portrayed in the media
 - 2. A statement of a father's responsibility, given him by God
- B. *Gospelized* Fatherhood in a permissive society
- C. *Gospelized* Fatherhood in a *Talmudized* church
 - 1. You MUST home school your children
 - 2. Legalism in dress: *Amishing* the church
 - a. *Are we creating little Pharisees?*
 - 3. What's your Goal? *Behavior Modification* or the Gospel
 - a. *Do we really want lust- driven obedience?*
 - 4. "Power struggles" and "Breaking the will" vs. Gal 6:1
 - 5. Bad theology leads to bad practice: The Pelagianism of the Pearl's

III. *Do not provoke your children to anger* (cf Col 3:21)

- A. Stop doing that which is your inclination to do
 - 1. Gospelize your harshness and legalistic leaning
- B. What attitude provoke you children to anger?
 - 1. **Pride** – confess to your children when you sin against them
 - 2. **Indifference** – Prov 29:15
 - 3. **Harsh Discipline** – use the rod, but not impulsively
 - 4. **Discipline in Anger** – how can you discipline, when you need it?
 - 5. **Inconsistent Discipline** – keep to a steady standard
 - 6. **Favoritism** – treat different children fairly
 - 7. **Unjust Discipline** – listen and give them the benefit of the doubt
 - 8. **Being distant except in discipline** – be a man - hug your child!
 - 9. **Never encouraging** – right out of the text, not pop psychology
 - 10. **Perfectionism** – who can ever please you? (Ps 103:13-14)
 - 11. **Sarcasm** – be careful of misunderstood humor

IV. *But nurture them in the discipline and instruction of the Lord*

- A. ***Discipline*** (child training)

Make a study of the following verses:

Ex 20:12, **Deut** 4:9-10, 6:5-9, 11:19, 21:18-21, **Ps** 127 3-5, 128:1-6

Prov 1:7-9, 2:1-6, 3:11-12, 4:1-17, 6:20-23, 13:24, 20:20, 22:6, 15

23:13, 22,24 29:15, 30:17, **Eph** 6:4, **Col** 3:21, **1Tim** 3:4,5

2Tim 3:16-17, **Titus** 2:4-5, **Heb** 12:7-11

1. Discipline begins with the rod (Pr 13:24, 10:13, 22:15)
 2. Discipline moves from the rod to the Word (2 Tim 3:16)
- B. ***Instruction*** (to place in one's mind)
1. In those informal 'teachable moments' (Deut 6:6-7)
 2. In formal family worship (Psalm 119:98-100,104)
- C. ***... of the Lord*** (genitive of possession)
1. You children are God's possession created for His glory, not yours
 2. Even though they are sinners, God addresses our children in covenantal terms – discipline not punishment
- V. **Conclusion: Are you Gospelized?**
- A. Only Gospel-men can produce Gospel-children