

A Father's Touch

Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 19:18

Sermon Outline

A. Nourishes the Child to Maturity (Ephesians 6:4:):

1. Fathers – The word father has to do with the author and beginner. God, by the word's meaning has structured everything to begin here.
2. Provoke to anger – Cannot do - (Prov. 18:21 – power of the tongue) – Paul orders us not continuously (to the point it becomes a habit) to over protect, show favoritism, purposefully neglect our children; say words that stimulate bitterness in a child or become physically abusive when raising children.
3. Provoke to anger – Cannot do - (Prov. 18:21 – power of the tongue) – We are not to continuously (to the point it becomes a habit) and purposefully say words that would arouse anger in a child. The child can become angry, resentful, and bitter.
4. Bring up; (Must do) - Nourish, Nurture – emotional development – Paul commands us to make it a habit to nourish our children with the same mindset a husband is to nourish his wife. There needs to be a tenderness provided to a child while they are being raised.
5. Discipline – This word is not first attached to correction. It is more focused on developing wisdom in a child and that is why it is followed with instruction.
 - a) Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, the rod of discipline will remove it far from him. (Prov 22:15; NASU): Who is a fool:
 - Rejects knowledge (Prov. 13:16; 18:2; 23:9).
 - Hates discipline – Prov. 15:5,14; 17:10
 - Squanders money – Prov. 21:20.
 - Is quick to quarrel – Prov. 20:3
 - A foolish person must not be honored – Prov. 26:1,5.
 - A fool will be an atheist (Ps. 53:1).
 - 'A fool finds pleasure in evil conduct' (10:23; 26:11 – he repeats this behavior even if it hurts the first time).
 - A fool's ways seem right (12:15).
 - A fool is hotheaded (14:16).
 - b) A child's obedience led to a long life. This was especially true in the Old Testament where disobedience leads to death (Exod. 21:15,

17). Paul also described the father's proper relationship to his children (6:4). Fathers are to be gentle and patient like the Lord and are to avoid provoking their children.^[1]

6. Discipline – Discipline not only symbolizes education it is teaching the child for the purpose of stimulating spiritual growth in them. This is why all of this is done in the Lord (in the sphere of all that God desires to achieve in and through the child's life. Each child is a gift from Him; Ps. 127:3. What we do with them determines if they are a gift back to God; 2 Tim. 1:5-6).
 - a) This is why we are responsible for training a child in the way they ought to go and if we do not function as fathers the land is destroyed (Prov. 22:6; Mal. 4:6). The same if a pastor forsakes knowledge, God curses their children (Hosea 4:6).
 - b) "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7 "You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9 "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deut. 6:4; NASU)
 - c) "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children." (Hos. 4:6; NASU)
 - d) "He will restore the hearts of the fathers to *their* children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse." (Mal 4:6; NASU)
7. Discipline – Discipline also involves correction. Correction takes place when the child willfully and persistently violates the rules that are in place to shape the will of the child to submit their lives to Him. Earthly fathers lead their children to their heavenly Father (Hebrews 12:7-11). This is important because when the child becomes an adult, they will need to rely on their Heavenly Father to guide them each day.
8. Instruction – The purpose of instruction is for training the child to understand what they are dealing with so that they learn to make wise decisions.
9. Instruction – The purpose of instruction is to influence the child so that the child's disposition that is shaped by Christ does what is right.
10. Instruction – The purpose of instruction is to also provide information to the

child when they are wrong so that expectations are clear. This allows correction to be more objective than emotional.

11. Lord – The direct objective for which everything is done is for the Lord because He is the One with the ultimate authority and power. The parent is therefore ultimately accountable to God forever (Matthew 18:5-6; 10 – millstone around your neck).

B. Preserves His Child's Life (Proverbs 19:18):

"Chasten thy son while there is hope and let not thy soul spare for his crying."

1. Discipline – God commands us to correct our children so that their behavior improves so that they may continue to be open to training. Correction is to soften the heart to gain understanding.

a) My wife and I did this in the following manner:

- First warned them.
- Then we took away privileges.
- Then we whipe them with few whipes
- The wipes increase if the behavior was repeated and kept increasing until they stopped.

They were responsible not my wife and I.

2. Hope – When the heart remains open to be shaped by God a parent can have confident expectations that the child will be trained in the way they ought to go.
3. Soul, mind – nephesh – Soul is the deepest part of our lives as we function each day from the inside out. A parent, that has as a passion for the proper development of their child, will be extremely concerned (sometimes emotionally stressed) for their physical, emotional, mental and spiritual development. Solomon instructs these young men to not hold back doing what is necessary for the proper development of the child.
4. Spare – Spare here means that the parent must not let their emotions (sometimes not wanting the child to hate them or overwhelmed by their crying) to become so disturbed that they are carried away from doing what God has called them to do.
5. For his crying; Death – Sometimes the child cries when they are being disciplined like they are going to die, or everything is too much. The parent is instructed to not let this behavior move them away from their responsibility of raising the child in the way they should go.
 - a) The neglect of child discipline results in premature death for a disobedient or rebellious child (19:18; cf. Exod. 21:15). A simpleton needs to visualize or experience the consequences of folly but a wise

man will correct his conduct simply in response to a reproof (Prov. 19:25).^[2]

^[1] Hughes, R. B., & Laney, J. C. (2001). [*Tyndale concise Bible commentary*](#) (p. 596). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

^[2] Hughes, R. B., & Laney, J. C. (2001). [*Tyndale concise Bible commentary*](#) (p. 235). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.