

RAISING YOUR CHILDREN

(Ephesians 6:4)

Some of you have played sports and know the value of having a good coach. A good coach does a number of things to help the team. He or she instructs, motivates, corrects, and disciplines so that the team will become all that they are capable of and beyond.

This is exactly God's role for dads and moms. You are the coach. Your kids are the team.

Paul continues in Ephesians telling us how parents are to raise their children for Christ the Lord.

TWO DIRECTIVES FOR PARENTS HELPING US TO RAISE OUR CHILDREN SUCCESSFULLY...THAT IS, FOR THE LORD.

Don't listen to all the psycho-babble that permeates our day...rather, listen to the Creator.

I. Fathers (parents) Stop Exasperating Your Kids For It Drives Them Away. (v.4a)

- A. God commands us through Paul to stop provoking our kids to anger." In a parallel teaching found in Colossians 3:21, we are told not "to embitter our children" or they will become discouraged. This is a word of "restraint" especially to dads who could crush a child. Exercise your authority in a balanced way. So Paul begins with a negative...don't do this!
- B. Parents are entrusted with the minds, feelings, and bodies of tender bearers of God's image.
 1. If a parent provokes a child to anger or embitters him, he may lose the opportunity to train his heart and form his character. The heart is all important!!!!
 2. Remember, your children are not really your own, they belong to the Lord.
- C. How do we provoke our children and drive them from us?
 1. By over disciplining or under-disciplining them. Both extremes produce insecurity.
 2. Over protect them, fence them in too much, never trust them, never give them a chance to develop independence.
 3. Overindulge them. Give them everything they want. Spoil them.
 4. Favoritism among one's children produces this. (Gen. 25:28) Rebecca and Jacob... Don't compare. Don't give gifts and privileges to one that you withhold from others.
 5. Unrealistic goals can drive your children into bitterness. Constantly push achievement. Cause them by this to feel that they can never please you.
 6. Discouragement. When you are constantly critical of your children, and hardly praise them. Focus on their faults.
 7. Neglect. Fail to show them love and affection. Just show them indifference.

