



Raising Children

Ephesians 6:1-4

Prayer of Adoration

Deuteronomy 10:17–18 (ESV)

¹⁷ For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. ¹⁸ He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.

Socrates said, “Could I climb to the highest place in Athens, I would lift my voice and proclaim—fellow-citizens, why do ye turn and scrape every stone to gather wealth, and take so little care of your children, to whom one day you must relinquish it all?”



It is easier and better to build boys than to
repair men.



“Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see.”



“Raising kids is like pouring concrete. Mold it when it’s newly poured, before it sets.”

Dr. Frank Minirth



There is no time to Waste

“When it comes to rearing children, every society is only 20 years away from barbarism. Twenty years is all we have to accomplish the task of civilizing the infants who are born into our midst each year. These savages know nothing of our language, our culture, our religion, our values, our customs, or interpersonal relations. The infant is totally ignorant about communism, fascism, democracy, civil liberties, the rights of the minority as contrasted with prerogatives of the majority, respect, decency, honesty, customs, conventions, and manners. The barbarian must be tamed if civilization is to survive.”

From Dr. Albert Siegel in Stanford Observer

Ephesians 6:1–4 (ESV)

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
² “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise),
³ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”
⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.



Mothers

The best gift you can give your children is to submit to their father.

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband



How to show respect?

Pray for your husband.

- Pray for his well-being,
- wisdom,
- protection,
- blessings, guidance, knowledge, spiritual maturity, success, purity, strength in temptation, etc.



How to show respect?

Recognize him as a leader of the home.



How to show respect?

Recognize his positive qualities by acknowledging them to him and others, Praise Him in front of the children.



How to show respect?

Don't criticize him to others, especially in front of or to the children.



How to show respect?

Respect his maleness (know differences between men and women)



Fathers

The best gift you can give your children is to love their mother.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,





Love your wife!

- Pray for her.
 - Family relations, work, issues that she deals with, etc.



Love your wife!

- Appreciate her as your helpmate.



Love your wife!

Recognize his positive qualities by acknowledging them to her and others.



Love your wife!

Never criticize her to others, especially in front of or to the children.



Love your wife!

Respect her as a lady
(know differences
between men and
women and love
the difference)



Love your wife!

Say and do things to
communicate your
love.



Love your wife!

Help her, hold her
up, be her
partner.

Children, Listen and Do

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

- Children and servants are told to obey, not wives.
- Obey – literally means “to hear and then put the words into action”, sometimes used in reference to answering door.



Obey both parents

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Both parents - not just the Father. Parents need to be consistent in what they say and expect out of their children.

When it comes to raising children the husband and wife are ONE, a team.



Obey In the Lord

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

- Hear and do what parents say
 - as you would unto the Christ.
 - Is an act of obedience to Christ.
- There is a greater authority involved than the parents.



Obedience is not an option

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

- It is what is demanded under the Law.



Things Go Better

² “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

- Quote from: Exodus 20:12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.”



Disobedience of Children

Is indicative of the slippery slope downward of moral decline away from God.

Romans 1:30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,



Disobedience of Children

Is be a sign of the End Times

2 Timothy 3:2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,



Negative Instruction to Fathers

⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger,
but bring them up in the discipline and
instruction of the Lord.



How Do We Provoke Them?

We Humiliate Them

When we ridicule, use sarcasm, and scorn we devastate a child's self-image, especially when these are targeted to areas of weakness.



How Do We Provoke Them

We Expect Perfection

We impose an impossible standard on our children. Even when they succeed, they are frustrated to find that the bar has been raised another notch.



How Do We Provoke Them

We Withdraw From Them

When we threaten to withdraw affection, children believe that they are loved on a performance basis. They can lose any sense of security.



How Do We Provoke Them

When We Compare Them

The practice of comparing one child with another reduces self-worth and produces alienation and rivalry.



How Do We Provoke Them

When We Nag Them

Incessant crabbing and criticizing creates a negative atmosphere and leads only to strife and hostility.



How Do We Provoke Them

When we Discipline out of Anger

When parents discipline out of anger, they display a lack of self-control that defeats the purpose of discipline. Fair and equitable treatment of disobedience or defiance requires a calm, clear head. We cannot be reasonable and lose our temper at the same time. The anger of a parent out of control can capture a child's attention more than the offense that caused it.



How Do We Provoke Them

- excessively severe discipline,
- unreasonably harsh or conflicting demands,
- abuse of authority,
- arbitrariness,
- Unfairness,
- gross insensitivity to a child's needs



Positive Instructions to Fathers

⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- It's the Father's role
- "Bring them up" Lit. "to nourish"
- "Discipline" **παιδεία** – Education – includes instruction, discipline, punishment.



Positive Instruction to Fathers

⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- “instruction” – teaching and warning.
 - Teach them about the Lord
 - Teach them what is morally acceptable to the Lord.
 - Warn of the consequences of doing what is morally unacceptable to the Lord.

Coleridge was once talking with a man who told him that he did not believe in giving little children any religious instruction whatsoever. His theory was that the child's mind should not be prejudiced in any direction, but when he came to years of discretion he should be permitted to choose his religious opinions for himself.

Coleridge said nothing; but after a while he asked his visitor if he would like to see his garden. The man said he would, and Coleridge took him out into the garden, where only weeds were growing. The man looked at Coleridge in surprise, and said, "Why this is not a garden! There is nothing but weeds here!"

"Well, you see," answered Coleridge, "I did not wish to infringe upon the liberty of the garden in any way, I was just giving the garden a chance to express itself and to choose its own production."

Closing Prayer

Numbers 6:24–26 (ESV)

²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you and
be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and
give you peace.