

Fathers Who Lead Ephesians 6:1-4

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Ephesians 6:4, “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

- I. Avoid Exasperation. Ephesians 6:4, “Fathers, do not exasperate your children;...”
 - A. The first duty is negative - we are told to “not exasperate our children.”
 1. Colossians 3:21, “Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.”
 - B. There are several ways that fathers can exasperate their children:
 1. Overprotection.
 2. Overindulgence.
 3. Favoritism.
 4. Unrealistic Goals.
 5. Discouragement.
 6. Neglect.
 7. Excessive Discipline.
- II. Provide Training. Ephesians 6:4, “Instead, bring them up.”
 - A. The word “instead” shows a contrast between what we should not do and what we are to do.
 - B. Dads, how are you doing on this one?
- III. Provide Discipline. Ephesians 6:4, “Instead, bring them up in the training...”
 - A. The next thing Paul challenges us to do is to provide discipline for our kids.
 1. “He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.” Proverbs 13:24
 - B. I’m not advocating that you beat your kids.
 1. “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.” Hebrews 12:11
- IV. Provide Instruction. Ephesians 6:4, “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”
 - A. We are to provide instruction.
 - B. Our goal is not merely to get our kids to conform to a list of rules.