

FAMILY IN FOCUS:
A FINAL WORD TO FATHERS

Ephesians 6:4

“Do not exasperate your children...”

“Do not provoke your children to wrath...”


“To anger or enrage”

Either open rebellion or internal smoldering

WHAT KINDS OF THINGS EXASPERATE OUR KIDS?

From MacArthur's Successful Christian Parenting

- Overprotection
- Overindulgence
 - Favoritism
- Unrealistic Goals
- Discouragement (See Col. 3:21)

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- Neglect (See 1 Tim. 5:8)
 - Condescension
 - Withdrawing Love
 - Excessive Discipline



BUT INSTEAD...


“Bring them up...”

Note the intentionality. Dads, we must be ‘hands on’ when it comes to the spiritual lives of our children.

“Training...” or “Nurture...”

Training here, but discipline or chastening in Heb. 12:5-11. Corporal punishment would be included, but this term covers “guidance, instruction and both positive and negative discipline.” (MacArthur)

“Nurture” helps us understand the heart behind it. We’re wanting to see the hearts of our kids prepared for the Lord to work (Recall Deut. 6:4-9)



Their hearts are in focus here.
If we aim for the head alone,
we risk missing their hearts completely.



“Instruction...” or “admonition” Training by word of encouragement when that is sufficient, but also by reproof or blame as required.



“of the Lord”

The goal is not simply behavior modification, but heart change. That is brought about only through Jesus Christ...

Your children have a sin nature – and that requires a Savior. Dads, we must lead our children to Jesus!