

God's Plan for Fathers

Text: Ephesians 6:4

Introduction:

- A. What do you think of a man who will allow his children to starve?
- B. Yet, many fathers, who provide all material things to their children, are cheating them in ways even worse than physically starving them.
- C. What are the responsibilities of a father to his children?

I. Spiritual Responsibilities - Ephesians 6:4

- A. “provoke not your children to wrath”: “irritate, exasperate”(Analytical Greek Lexicon; “to irritate beyond measure” (Young's Analytical Concordance)
 - 1. by being cutting and discouraging in speech - Proverbs 15:1; 25:11
 - 2. by being unfair, cruel, or overly demanding - Colossians 3:21; e.g., providing no alternatives to bad recreation
 - 3. by showing partiality - Genesis 37:3-4,26-35
 - 4. by cruel teasing - Genesis 21:9; cf. Galatians 4:29
- B. “nurture” - “the whole training and education of children [which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment....” - Thayer. 473; “stresses training by act” - Vine. 1:30.
 - 1. example of life - 2 Chronicles 14:2-5; 20:31-32
 - 2. restraint from wrong - 1 Samuel 2:12-17,22-25,27-36; 3:11-14; 4:12-22
 - 3. punishment for wrongdoing - Proverbs 13:24; 29:15, Hebrews 12:7-9
- C. “admonition”: “lit., a putting in mind.... is ‘the training by word,’ whether of encouragement, or, if necessary, by reproof or remonstrance....” - Vine. 1:30. - Genesis 18:17-19; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Proverbs 22:6

II. Material Responsibilities - Luke 2:52

- A. Provide their material needs. - 1 Timothy 5:8
- B. Teach them responsibility. - Lamentations 3:27

Conclusion:

- A. Fathers, are we giving our children the guidance they need and deserve, or are we cheating them out of the kind of daddy every child should have?
- B. Let us pray for the wisdom we need to properly guide our children. - Judges 13:8,12; James 1:5