

**Marriage & Family God's Way:
Children & Parents
Eph 5:15-6:4 Part 14**

I. Introduction

A. Last week closed with a question – WHAT is YOUR GOAL as parents?

1. As you are raising children now –
 - a) WHAT is YOUR GOAL for them?
 - b) What are your goals FOR YOURSELF as parents?
 - c) How do you gauge Success as a parent?

B. Here are some possible goals / objectives / outcomes you have as parents

1. Well-behaved children who grow into law-abiding, contributing members of society –
 - a) I want my kids to turn out good so I can be proud of them!
 - b) To accomplish – you would focus on behavior – external behavior
2. Successful children who get good jobs, are economically well-off
 - a) I want to be proud my kids achievements
 - b) Here – focus on training / education / work experience / get ahead opportunities
3. Happily married children who raise good families
 - a) Not get divorced / Not have problem children
 - b) I want to enjoy my kid's families / grandchildren and be proud of them as spouses and parents.
 - c) Here – focus on family activities / participating in chores / family decisions, etc.
 - d) Concerned about who your kids hang out with – who they date / what they value in a person.

4. Those are probably some of the main things parents consider as goals for their children
 - a) But obviously, I've left something out
 - b) Nothing wrong with those goals but we forgot religion!
5. So – Children who grow up to go to church and raise their families in church
 - a) Active in their churches
 - b) Enjoy the fellowship in their churches!
 - c) To accomplish – make sure they
 - (1) Go to church now
 - (2) Enjoy going to church now
 - (3) Get needs met at church now
 - d) Find a church with good music, great youth group, lots of community service activities – and monitor how much they enjoy it!
6. Did I now cover all the right goals? ☺ NOT

C. *What is the BIBLICAL GOAL of PARENTING?*

1. = LEAD our CHILDREN TO Jesus Christ TO FOLLOW Jesus Christ
 - a) Your GOAL for your CHILDREN =
 - (1) Their SALVATION in JESUS CHRIST – doing everything you can from your side
 - (2) Their SANCTIFICATION in Jesus Christ
 - (a) Raise them to be the BEST FOLLOWERS of CHRIST -In ATTITUDE / ACTION
 - b) Raise them biblically THEN LET GOD take CARE of the RESULTS
2. How do you accomplish this? FOCUS YOUR LIFE and THEIR LIFE on LEARNING / FOLLOWING / BEING LIKE JESUS CHRIST

D. *Let's see how Paul teaches that!*

E. TURN TO Eph 6:1 to read...

II. REVIEW: Submission of Children (Eph 6:1-3)

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

A. Requirements of Submission = Action + Attitude = Obedience + Honor

B. Results of Submission = Quality of Life + Quantity of Life

III. Requirements of Parents

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

A. Fathers,

1. Q: IS Paul ONLY speaking to Fathers in the raising of children?
2. A: NO, with QUALIFICATIONS!
3. Answer:
 - a) FATHER is the head of the wife and by direct implication – of the family
 - b) 5:22-24 Wife submits to the Husband = WIFE parents the children in SUBMISSION to the husband
 - c) 5:25-32 Husband loves wife as Christ loves the church = SACRIFICE & SANCTIFICATION
 - d) Sanctification = Husband is primary spiritual leader of wife and her growth to Christ-likeness
 - e) = Husband oversees her parenting and
 - (1) Ensures that what she does is godly / biblical / consistent with his application of Scripture
 - (2) helps her grow in areas where he sees she needs sanctifying

- f) Husband has the responsibility to LEARN what needs to be done and DECIDE overall APPLICATION in his household!
 - g) THEN – BOTH do it together as a TEAM!
 - h) CHILDREN submit to BOTH BUT LEARN that HUSBAND is THE HEAD!
4. Now look at requirements placed on parents...
- a) First NOTICE the structure of 6:4 – IT IS A CONTRAST! = “BUT” in the middle
 - b) Paul has a NEGATIVE first then contrasted with a POSTIVE – let’s look at these as do’s and don’ts

B. DON'T: Do not provoke your children to anger

Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger,

1. Fathers, I COMMAND YOU NOT TREAT your children in such a way as to BRING THEM to where they RESENT YOU!
 - a) Stop raising kids that RESENT you!
2. Provoke... to anger = to rouse to wrath, exasperate = state of perpetual resentment
 - a) = COMMAND = STOP Provoking (vs. DO NOT START provoking)
3. your children = same word as used in V.1 –
4. Talk about anger! -TWO CATEGORIES of Anger
 - a) Godly Anger – Righteous anger – Anger God has – guess what? NOT talking about that here!
 - b) Ungodly Anger – Unrighteous anger = sinful Anger
5. Unrighteous / ungodly anger comes in 3 FLAVORS...
 - a) **RAGE Anger: Eph 4:31**
 - (1) THUMOS (wrath in v.31) = rage, wrath
 - (2) = INSTANT NUCLEAR EXPLOSION
 - (3) NEVER tolerated for a Christian!
 - (4) = Road Rage, “losing it” RAGE

b) REASONED Anger: 4:26: ORGAY

Eph 4:26 BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; ...

(1)= Anger that COMES from VIOLATING your PRINCIPLES, BELIEFS, VIEWS, EXPECTATIONS, etc.

(2)“I have a REASON to be ANGRY!”

(3)NOT Road rage – NOT instant, hot-headed anger

c) RESENTMENT Anger: Eph 4:26 AND Eph 6:4

Eph 4:26 BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger,

(1)=PAR-ORGIDZ-O = ORGAY + Preposition to INTENSIFY

(2)= Resentment, bitterness, BUILT-UP ANGER

(3)= Anger HELD ONTO / DWELT ON

(4)Hence, “provoke to anger”

(5)One author “become ugly, moody, person with root of bitterness”

(6)Why do you see it in Eph 4:26

(7)A: IF you’ve not LET go of your SINFUL ANGER IMMEDIATELY after the SITUATION, it has BECOME the beginning of RESENTMENT Anger – you’ve started down the path of bitterness, resentment, long-term anger

(a)Paul: It’s ALREADY CHANGED CATEGORIES!

(8)How does this apply to Eph 6:4?

(a)Children are helpless under your control

(b)IF you CONTINUALLY provoke them to anger, PAUL SAYS IT WILL TURN INTO RESENTMENT

6. What are some of the implications of this command?
- THIS is a COMMAND – MUST DO IT
 - IT is a CONTINUOUS COMMAND – MUST STOP DOING ALWAYS
 - IT is an ACTIVE COMMAND – you control the action / you are responsible – CANNOT SAY my child is a resentful child – it just happened!
 - IT is a COMMAND to STOP → WE ALL DO IT! -
(1)we all FAIL as PARENTS and MAKE our CHILDREN ANGRY!
 - IF you ignore this command YOU are RESPONSIBLE for your child becoming RESENTFUL
 - You are RESPONSIBLE for RAISING a CHILD with a MAJOR SIN PROBLEM – RESENTMENT – God will hold you accountable

IV. NEW: DO: The EXPECTATIONS of PARENTING

6:4...but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- but = our contrast = as opposed to provoking your children to anger, you are to...

B. The EXTENT of PARENTING

1. bring them up

- we just saw this word recently
- Look at Eph 5:29...

Eph 5:29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,

(1)but nourishes and cherishes it,

- REMEMBER? = two words picture the care we have for our body IN A PICTURE of HOW we CARE FOR CHILDREN!

- (b) Same word as IN 6:4
- (c) BUT 6:4 is a COMMAND = YOU MUST ACTIVELY, CONTINUOUSLY NOURISH your CHILDREN
 - (i) = looks like graph that goes up to the right in a steady, linear line!
 - (ii) IOW we continually, steadily, INCREASINGLY NOURISH our children!
- (d) Nourishes = bring to maturity / growing in development from childhood!
 - (i) It's even sometimes used to NURSE a CHILD – some translations = “feed” here

2. Meaning of “[bring them up](#)”

a) Parenting is WITH GREAT CARE:

- (1) Verb has an INTENSIFIER ON THE FRONT – USE GREAT CARE IN NOURISHING THEM
- (2) Greater than just letting them grow up around you!
- (3) Greater than just SETTING RULES and CONTROLLING behavior
- (4) = INTENSE Care and Concern

b) Parenting is COMMANDED – verb is command

- (1) You don't have a choice!
- (2) You are NOT in obedience to God IF
 - (a) Your ministry is in perfect order
 - (b) The Bible study you teach is going great
 - (c) The people you disciple are growing
 - (d) BUT your CHILDREN are NEGLECTED
- (3) God GAVE You these CHILDREN as A GIFT and COMMANDS you to TAKE CARE OF THEM HIS WAY!

c) Parenting is ACTIVE – verb is active

- (1) No PLACE for PASSIVE PARENTING
- (2) Remember – their NATURE is DEPRAVITY
– LEFT ALONE they WILL ONLY BECOME
HARDENED SINNERS
- (3) Passive Parenting
 - (a) Ignores trends in a child's life – trends
away from godliness – “it's a passing
stage, the child will GROW OUT OF IT”
 - (b) It's not the child's fault – it was his
circumstances, I mean even I don't think
this teacher is very nice – next year will
be different...”
 - (c) The child's been sick – can't obey when
sick! = external influences control
obedience
 - (d) The child's been like this since she was
born = genetic problems that can't be
solved by parenting
 - (e) Demonic influence! - some parents blame
all sin on demons! (victimizing)
 - (f) It's a SYNDROME or a DISORDER or
DISEASE!
 - (i) General rule – if a MEDICAL TEST can't
PROVE IT, ASSUME it is a SPIRITUAL
ISSUE!
- (4) If those are the symptoms of Passive Parenting –
what lies behind those thoughts?
 - (a) A: WRONG PRIORITIES
 - (b) We don't have God's priority on Parenting
 - (c) T/4 we don't LEARN what God expects
 - (d) T/4 we don't KNOW
 - (i) what is RIGHT / WRONG behavior
 - (ii) What is PHYSICAL vs. SPIRITUAL

- (e) We don't KNOW the BIBLICAL RESPONSES to situations
- (f) One Implication – not knowing Scripture on parenting WE THINK OUR CHILD...
 - (i) Will turn out OK
 - (ii) never do that!– We're a Christian Family!
 - (iii) It's cute! They're too young – they'll know better when they're older!
- (g) OR – we have other priorities
 - (i) We don't want to deal with conflict
 - (ii) We are lazy
 - (iii) We are too busy with our own priorities –work or play

d) Parenting is CONTINUOUS – verb is continuous

- (1) ALL THE TIME! - You NEVER TAKE A BREAK
- (2) IF something needs to be dealt with you do so immediately – DISCIPLINE NOW
- (3) IF a great discipling opportunity arises – you take it “Strike while the iron is hot”

e) Parenting is FOR ALL ASPECTS of [“bringing them up”](#)

- (1) Word originally was just PHYSICAL nourishment – BUT evolved to mean – ALL FORMS of RAISING UP A CHILD
 - (a) Physical / Spiritual
 - (b) Academic / personal development

→ Before we look at the Detailed ESSENTIALS of PARENTING – Let me talk about one more area!

f) PARENTING is a LEARNED AREA of LIVING

- (1) We too we were born reprobates – our nature was too sin
- (2) We KNEW nothing of God and His way of living UNTIL TAUGHT

- (3) UNLESS you were TAUGHT BIBLICAL PARENTING by your parents (with Bible verses) – you don't know what to do
- (4) IOW – You have to go to SCRIPTURE AND LEARN PARENTING
- (5) SO – If I asked you – could you answer...
- (a) What are the Key verses / sections of Scripture that teach parenting?
Answer?
 - (b) What is the purpose of spanking in Scripture?
 - (c) What is God's responsibility for you as parents – from Scripture?
 - (d) Do you TURN ONLY TO SCRIPTURE to learn parenting?
 - (e) Do you believe Psychology can help you parent?
 - (f) Do you believe James Dobson (Focus on the Family) is a good or bad source for parenting training?
 - (g) What are good biblical books on Parenting?
 - (h) HAVE YOU READ THEM?
 - (i) HAVE YOU STUDIED PARENTING (or did you stumble through just doing what your parents did and/or assume that your opinion = the will of God for parenting?)
 - (j) COULD you DISCIPLE SOMEONE ELSE BIBLICALLY to be godly parents?
- g) Hopefully, those questions got you thinking (and not just thinking about walking out on this sermon!).
3. So, what is the EXTENT of PARENTING? A: BRING THEM UP – Raise them from birth to Adulthood – IN EVERY ASPECT of LIFE

C. *The ESSENCE of PARENTING*

[bring them up] in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

1. Two EQUALLY WEIGHTED REQUIREMENTS
2. Both "of the Lord"
 - a) = CONTEXT / SPHERE of discipline and instruction
 - b) Lord = SPECIFICALLY JESUS CHRIST
 - c) Remember this back in 6:1? Child are to focus OBEDIENCE on Jesus Christ?
 - d) Remember this back in 5:22? Wife is to focus Submission on Jesus Christ
 - e) = ULTIMATELY, you are obeying Jesus Christ
 - f) Parents – all that you is FOCUSED on Jesus Christ!
3. Said many times – CHRISTIAN LIFE = PERSON-DRIVEN LIFE
4. EVERYTHING God has Given us in Jesus Christ (Eph 1:3)
5. We raise our children to be SAVED by HIM and then FOCUS their lives on Him
6. WHEN we are Godly parents we GIVE OUR CHILDREN EVERYTHING in JESUS CHRIST!
7. OUR OBJECTIVES as PARENTS
 - a) TEACH our CHILDREN JESUS CHRIST
 - b) TEACH their NEED for HIM
 - c) TEACH them to BE LIKE HIM
 - d) = LEAD THEM TO HIM TO FOLLOW HIM
 - e) Your GOAL for your CHILDREN
 - (1) Their SALVATION in JESUS CHRIST – doing everything you can from your side
 - (2) Their SANCTIFICATION in Jesus Christ
 - (a) Raise them to be the BEST FOLLOWERS of CHRIST -In ATTITUDE / In ACTION
 - (3) THEN LET GOD take CARE of the RESULTS

(4) IF GOD saves them -You were the ones He used to Lead them to Him

(5) AND – they will want to focus their lives on LEARNING CHRIST, FOLLOWING CHRIST, BEING LIKE CHRIST – that will be the MOST NATURAL THING for them to do!

D. The ESSENTIALS of PARENTING

[bring them up] in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

1. in the discipline... of the Lord.

- a) “discipline” = TRAINING – ALL FORMS!
- b) Actual root word includes “child” in Greek
- c) It’s a strong word – INCLUDES BOTH POSITIVE and NEGATIVE training - training and CHASTENING
- d) NKJ = “training” / NAS = “discipline”
- e) Other NT Uses (used 4x in Heb 12:5-11)
 - (1) 3X as Discipline / 1X as Training
 - Heb 12:11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. → Same exact word
- f) Best use (meaning here): 2 Ti 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
- g) “discipline” = SYSTEMATIC TRAINING of A CHILD **to MATURITY**
- h) Includes = discipling, teaching, rules, guidelines, restrictions, rewards / punishment / correction, structure
- i) To do this
 - (1) You need to KNOW SCRIPTURE
 - (2) KNOW BIBLICAL PARENTING
 - (3) Make PARENTING a TIME PRIORITY (time to be SYSTEMATIC!)

- j) = Parenting is A MAJOR PRIORITY of YOUR LIFE!
- k) “discipline / training” = OVERALL word = PROCESS

2. in the... instruction of the Lord.

- a) “instruction” = literally “putting in MIND”
- b) = CONTENT of what we GIVE OUR CHILDREN
- c) = “exhortation, admonition”

1 Co 10:11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

- 3. BOTH WORDS NEED the next phrase “of the Lord”
 - a) You need to know the FOCUS OF YOUR PROCESS
 - b) You need to know the FOCUS of your CONTENT!
 - c) That’s the importance of the ESSENCE of PARENTING – It’s ALL ABOUT CHRIST!
- 4. Once again – the CONTENT of what you teach Children is JESUS CHRIST!
 - a) You want them to LEARN a PERSON (4:20)
 - b) TRUTH is IN JESUS (4:21)

V. **The REALITY of PARENTING**

A. The Reality of Parenting: ALL CHILDREN GET a PHD in being JUST LIKE YOU!

B. For 18 years, your children will ABSORB, IMITATE, and even GO BEYOND being JUST LIKE YOU

C. You will

- 1. REWARD them when they ACT like you
- 2. PUNISH them when they ACT like you DON’T WANT them to act
- 3. IOW – You will REINFORCE / TRAIN INTO THEM YOUR MOST IMPORTANT VALUES / BELIEFS / FEARS – even SINS / WEAKNESSES / ANGERS, etc.

D. The MORE you ARE LIKE CHRIST, the MORE the WILL BE LIKE CHRIST!

1. The MORE you ARE LIKE the WORLD, the MORE you are LIKE the world
2. Do you see that? Have you internalized that?

E. IF you try to MAKE THEM SOMETHING you are NOT – they WILL SEE you as a HYPOCRITE – and won't ACCEPT your Message

F. Q: does that mean you need to be PERFECT in order to be a Parent?

1. A: NO! BUT you need to be ON THE RIGHT PATH
2. FOR WHEREVER you ARE in Spiritual Maturity
3. You need to BE GROWING / CHANGING / LEARNING / REPENTING
 - a) Your children will learn the process of SANCTIFICATION
 - b) You will ASK FORGIVENESS when you SIN – which UNDOES the WRONG TRAINING
 - c) Your children will GROW WITH YOU in Christ-likeness

G. AND – you can constantly SEEK the GODLY COUNSEL of THOSE who HAVE GONE BEFORE YOU!

1. Note – I say before you!
2. So many parents think they need to be with parents with same age kids
 - a) Ones going through same things that they are going through!
3. = Nothing more than a SUPPORT GROUP
4. NOT = SPIRITUAL ANSWERS GROUP!
5. Why? You need parents who have come out the other side with GODLY CHILDREN!
6. WHO KNOW what WORKED / DIDN'T WORK!

7. WHO have LEARNED and know what they would DO BETTER!
8. HAVE SEEN the RESULTS of OTHER PARENTING STYLES!
9. Remember – WISDOM is the RESULT of GODLY LIVING – have to wait for some results to know who is wise!

H. What do you STRIVE TO BE - what do you want your children to GET THAT PHD in?

1. A: STRIVE to BE CHRIST-LIKE
2. So, just like Paul – can say...

[1 Co 11:1](#) Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

VI. Conclusion – Your challenge is NO DIFFERENT than the MOST FAMOUS PARENTS in HISTORY!

[Lk 2:41](#) Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. [42](#) And when He became twelve, they went up *there* according to the custom of the Feast; [43](#) and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it, [44](#) but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they *began* looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. [45](#) When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him. [46](#) Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. [47](#) And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. [48](#) When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You." [49](#) And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's *house*?" [50](#) But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them. [51](#) And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in

subjection to them; and His mother treasured all *these* things in her heart. 52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

A. Get that last verse?

B. Jesus KEPT INCREASING in

1. WISDOM & STATURE
2. and IN FAVOR with GOD and men.

C. Jesus was RAISED by Joseph & Mary

1. They had to carry out Eph 6:4 on God incarnate
2. Result?

D. Jesus KEPT INCREASING in

1. WISDOM & STATURE
2. and IN FAVOR with GOD and men.

E. WISDOM & STATURE

1. = Training and nourishing
2. = Godly wisdom = knowledge + living that knowledge
3. Stature = Physical Growth and human growth to MATURITY

F. and IN FAVOR with GOD and men.

1. favor = "grace"
2. God and Man saw the RESULTS of his upbringing
3. He was growing Godliness – pleasing God
4. He was growing to maturity – impressing / pleasing men