

In The Discipline and Instruction of The Lord

Eph. 6:1-4

Introduction

- Eph. 6:1-4 →
- What are your goals, aims, purpose in mind as you raise your children? Many would say...
 - For them to grow up to be healthy, happy, well-adjusted contributing members of society.
 - To make good grades, go to college, get a good job, get married and have a nice life.
 - For them to have more than I did – to have a better life than me, never know a single pain or disappointment.
 - Be popular, well-liked. Be a great athlete, make a name for themself.
 - To be independent, self-sufficient.
- What are the aims, goals of godly parents? Those who realize that there is much more to life than the here and now.
 - Abraham → For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him. (Gen. 18:19)
 - Joshua → And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve ; whether the gods which your fathers served that [were] on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell : but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.
 - The ultimate goal should be to raise children who will come to know the Lord, obey and serve Him faithfully, and live with him eternally when this life is over.
- That is a fearful and sobering challenge in an ungodly world.
- Satan is always at work. (I Pet. 5:8)
- He hurls his fiery darts from many different directions: (Gov., Schools, Media, Worldliness, False Teachers, etc.)
- Parents are in a life and death struggle for the hearts, minds and souls of their children, in a culture that runs counter to the principles of godliness.
- We must hate what is evil and cleave to that which is good.
- A daunting task: II Tim. 1:5; 3:14-15

Discussion

I. The Responsibility Stated...

- In The Old Testament: Deut. 6:4-13; vv. 20-25; Josh. 2:10-14 →
- Eph. 6:1-4 →
 - 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right.
 - 6:2 “*Honor your father and mother,*” which is the first commandment accompanied by a promise, namely,
 - 6:3 “*that it may go well with you and that you will live a long time on the earth.*”
 - 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but raise them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

II. What To Teach...

- God – it all begins with him. (Prov. 9:10)
 - He is. (Ps. 14:1)
 - He is the Creator. (Gen. 1:1; Ps. 19:1ff)
 - He loves us, and we are to love him. (Jn. 3:16; 14:15)
 - Knowledge of...faith in God. (II Tim. 1:5; 3:14-15)
 - His works. (Deut. 6:20ff; Rom. 1:18ff)
 - His authority – what God says is right. His word is our guide for life. Right and wrong is determined by Him. (Matt. 4:4)
 - His law for marriage. (Gen. 2:18-24) Permanency, Need to choose good companions. (I Cor. 15:33)

—His word and worship. (Matt. 4:4; Jn. 4:24)

•Respect...

—And reverence for God. (Eccl. 12:13)

—For parents. (Eph. 6:1; Prov. 1:8)

—For others in authority. (Rom. 13:1; I Tim. 2:2)

•Government, Elders, Teachers, etc.

—For the things of others. (Col. 3:5)

—Respect for self. (Ps. 139:14; Ps. 8:3-4)

•Refrain from doing those things that would harm the body. (I Cor. 6:18-20)

•Abstain, flee from fornication. (I Cor. 6:18)

•Modest dress reflects self-respect. (I Tim. 2:9-11)

•Honesty (Eph. 4:25)

•Work ethic (Eph. 4:28)

•Dependability (I Cor. 4:2)

•Courtesy (Matt. 7:12; Eph. 4:32)

•Courage. (Dan. 3)

•Selflessness (Phil. 2:4)

•Self-control. (II Pet. 1:6; Matt. 15:18; Prov. 4:23)

•The danger of peer pressure. (Prov. 1:10ff)

•Pure speech. (Eph. 4:29)

•Responsibility (Rom. 14:12)

•Accountability (Matt. 25:31ff)

III. Some Requirements...

•Love. (Titus 2:4; Prov. 13:24; Heb. 12:6-11; Rom. 1:31)

—Places the concerns (including family) of others above self.

—Teaches, encourages, warns, disciplines, sets a good example, etc.

•Time. (Eph. 5:16)

—The responsibilities of a parent to a child require time.

—To teach, read to, listen to, eat with, work with, play with, get to know their friends, etc.

•Communication.

—Deut. 6:7, 20-21 → talk, teach, say...

—Deut. 6:20ff → answer

—James 1:19 → listen

—Communication makes for a good relationship.

•Illustration (A good example)

—I Tim. 4:12

—Matt. 5:16

—Rom. 2:24; Eph. 6:4