

***“Children, Obey Your  
Parents in the Lord”***

Ephesians 6:1-4

January 18, 2009

# Why “Fathers” and not “Parents”

1. Paul is honoring the line of authority.

*“Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching...My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching.” (Prov. 1:8 & 6:20)*

# Why “Fathers” and not “Parents”

2. Men are more prone to anger.

*“<sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” (Eph. 4:31-32)*

# Why “Provoke to Anger”?

1. The improper use of anger discourages our children and this is devastating to their development.
2. The improper use of anger produces things in our children we should not produce

# Why “Provoke to Anger”?

3. The improper use of anger is an abuse of power.
4. Anger is the natural reaction of any human being when he or she is confronted with authority, and thus we must know how to manage it.

# “Bring them Up”

The word for “bring up” literally means to nourish or feed:

*Thus, our task as parents is to nourish our children to full maturity by means of the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

# “Of the Lord”

The words “of the Lord” imply that to nourish our children to full maturity is to teach them to know God himself.

*“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”*

*Deuteronomy 6:6-7*

# Discipline & Instruction

1. The word Paul uses for “discipline” here means that we teach our children to form proper habits of behavior
2. The word “instruction” implies that we must teach our children specific content about God which is found only in the Bible.

# Conclusion

*Parents, our job is to nourish our children to full maturity by means of the discipline and instruction of the Lord. If we're to do this well, we must first know God ourselves and we must be very careful about how we arouse anger in our children.*