

What is a Father?

One of the greatest things I've learned a FATHER can do for his children is to love their mother.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 "And these words which I commanded you today shall be on your heart, and you shall repeat them to your sons, and shall speak of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk in the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up."

Ephesians 6:4 - Jesus said, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord".

By God's standards, anyone who is a father should first be a husband. One must love, honor, nourish and cherish his wife in every aspect of her life - **Eph. 5:25-28** ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing[a] her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Col. 3:19 ¹⁹Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

1 Pet. 3:7 ⁷Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

Paul, said, **Eph. 6:4**, "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord". In just a few words here, Gods Word speaks of **responsibility, accountability and possibility ...**

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Responsibility

First, a father is not to provoke their children to wrath.

Col. 3:21. ²¹Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

- **Have fun.**
- **Spend time with and take responsibility for your children.**

The second primary aspect of a father's responsibility is to bring his children up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Under Christ, the father is the spiritual head of the home **Eph. 5:22-24;**
²²Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.
²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

1 Cor. 11:3³ But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

- **Be a teacher by both word and example.**

1 Kings 3:3 Solomon showed his love for the Lord by walking according to the instructions given him by his father David.....

- One of our biggest problems is that too many fathers are not spiritual men. This must change.

Furthermore, another problem is that too many fathers do not know what the "training and instruction of the Lord" is, nor how to bring their children up in it.

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Deut. 6:5-9, ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

The ultimate goal is to spur them to **willingly submit their life to their Heavenly Father**, as this is the way they should go.

Accountability

Psa. 127:3-5 - Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. ⁴ Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

- **Realize that a father's job is never done.**

Possibility

Not only does this verse in **Eph. 6:4** speak of responsibility and accountability, it speaks of possibility.

It speaks of the possibility of bringing up godly children **despite the immorality and wickedness of today**.

But most of all, it speaks of the possibility of heaven, for fathers and for their children. This is ultimately what it is all about **Eccl. 12:13** ¹³ Now

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all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

- **Don't place unreasonable expectations on your children.**
- **A good father makes all the difference in a child's life.**
- **Don't place unreasonable expectations on yourself**

12 Traits of a good Father – exemplified first by the Heavenly Father

1- He's a good disciplinarian

2- He allows his children to make some mistakes

3- He's open-minded

4- He teaches his children to appreciate things.

5- He accepts that his children are not perfect nor exactly like him

6- He spends quality time with his children

7- He leads by example

8- He knows the desires of his children's Heart and supports them

9- He challenges his kids.

10- He teaches his children lessons

11- He protects his family at all costs

12- He shows unconditional love

- Show affection