Ephesians 6:1-4

*Raising Children…It Doesn’t Just Happen*

Introduction

1. Children are so sweet, but out of control and they can wreck a home. Some of the biggest

 joys and biggest heart breaks can come from our children.

2. When a child is raised with no standard, disaster often follows:

 In the 80s, Dr. Paul D. Meier: *Christian Child Rearing and Personality Development*

 discusses the tragedy of children raised without proper divine standards. He does it by

 showing step by step how to raise certain kinds of children.

 Examples: *Ten easy steps for developing your normal, healthy baby into a drug addict*

 *or alcoholic. How To Develop Your Normal Child into an Irresponsible Adult:*

\*Never spank your child. \*Let your child express himself any way he feels like it. \*Don’t

 run his life, let him run yours. \*Don’t enforce the household rules…if there are any.

 \*Don’t bother him with chores. \*Be sure to give in when he throws a temper tantrum.

 \*It will help if you choose to believe his lies. \*Criticize others openly and routinely, so he

 will realize that he is better than everyone else. \*Give him a big allowance and don’t

 make him work for it.

3. Very few are endeavoring to raise their families by biblical principles and consequently the

 children of our society are suffering. We buy the philosophy of the day with little regard

 for what God has to say. It’s easier that way!

4. Our children can be a joy, but we must raise them God’s way.

 What should we be teaching our children?

**I. THE RIGHT ACTION 6:1**

*Children…*we are all someone’s child. A child is anyone under the roof of, dominion of,

 responsibility of his parents.

 ***A. The Strength of Right Action***

 ***\*****Obey…Children get under the authority of your parents and listen.*

\*The word calls for a constant, habitual action…*continually hear and yield under your*

 *parent’s authority.*

***B. The Source of Right Action***

*Your parents…do what mom and dad says.*

**1. Obedience Is Not Natural**…did you have to teach your child to be disobedient?

 They come into the world disobedient.

 **2. Obedience Must Be Taught**...why must children be closely guided and made to

 obey? Luke 2:52 reminds us that children lack in 4 areas:

 **\****Children lack wisdom…*information and how to use what they know in daily living.

 They have no discretion. They do not know what is right or wrong. What is good

 or bad for them.

 *\*Children lack stature…*physically they are growing and developing. Each phase of

 growth has its own set of problems.

 *\*Children lack favor with man…*they have no social skills. They are totally selfish.

 **\****Children lack favor with God…*when they are little, there is a comprehension of

 God. If not properly instructed, they drift away.

 **3. Obedience Is Taught In Two Ways**: a) Example…what is your attitude toward

 authority? b) Instruction…disobedience cannot and will not be tolerated.

 Punishment must be worse than the reward of not obeying. Punishment must be

 consistent.

 ***C. The Sphere of Right Action…*** *In the Lord*

 *\**It must be according to the Word of God.

 \*(Colossians 3:20) *this is pleasing in God’s sight.*

***D. The Sanctity of Right Action…****For this (obedience) is right…*

\*It is that which is befitting.

 \*Children will have to accept something even though they do not understand.

What should we be teaching our children?

**II. THE RIGHT ATTITUDE 6:2, 3**

*Honor…*’to estimate or fix a value’ To honor someone is to evaluate that person

 accurately, honestly and treat them with respect, kindness and courtesy.

 \*Honor is the attitude behind the act. Do not permit gripping, complaining or pouting.

 \*Attitudes must be corrected like Actions. **Right Action** must be taught, and so must

 **Right** **Attitudes. *Start Early!!***

 ***A. The Object of this Right Attitude…****your father and mother*

The teaching starts here. There must be respect given and received. Honor must be

 seen by the husband and wife.

 ***B. The Ordinance of this Right Attitude…****first commandment with promise*

 *\*First* because it is the key to all human relationships.

 \*It is one of foremost significance. Without this attitude toward parents it is unlikely to

 be in the children’s home in later years.

 ***C. The Opportunity of this Right Attitude…***two opportunities:

 These are general principles, not absolute.

 **1.** *That it may be will with thee…****prosperity.*** If they do not respect parental authority

 they generallywill have trouble with all authority figures. Everyone begins

 employment with an authority figure.

 **2.** *Thou mayest live long on the earth…*this is again a general principle.

 \*Obedience fosters self discipline which in turn brings prosperity and longer life.

 \*An uncontrolled life, an undisciplined life will generally not prosper or live as long.

 \*Drugs, alcohol, immorality, crime... an undisciplined lifestyle shortens life.

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**III. THE RIGHT APPROACH 6:4**

*Bring them up… Fathers* here is parents…

 ***A. Provoke****…exasperate…make them frustrated…not your children to wrath.*

**Here's how to provoke your children: 10 ways…**

1) *Rules without Relationship leads to Rebellion*

2) Overprotection

 3) Favoritism

4) Pushing Achievement

 5) Discouragement

 6) Failure to Sacrifice

 7) Failure to Allow for Childishness

 8) Neglect

 9) Withholding Love

 10) Bitter Words and Cruel Physical Punishment

 ***B. Nurture****…bring them up…*

\*Training…learning…instruction *of the Lord*

 *\**This is what you do to the child. Rules and regulations which lead to reward of

 punishment. ***What your child is has been taught, reinforced or rewarded by what***

 ***we do or don’t do.***

 ***C. Admonition…****counsel…*this is what you say.

 \*Words of encouragement, comfort, forgiveness.

 \*Verbal instruction with a view to correct…*of the Lord.*

***What are you teaching your children by example and instruction?***