
*Time* magazine
“More children will go to sleep tonight in a fatherless home than ever before in our nation’s history.”

**Fathers** – bring your children up in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4

[Greek] “Fathers” = “*pater*

When it comes to raising children, God explicitly calls “fathers” to play an active, primary, and personal role.

Being a good father demands **everything we’ve got**.

If we’re going to fulfill our duty to God and our children – we’ve got to be **100% in**!

To every man here: if and when God blesses you with children, it is essential for you to understand that the **final accountability** before Jesus for how they are brought up is YOURS!

[Greek] “**NURTURE**” = “*paideia*” = “instruction/teaching/learning”

**The Bible** says that a father is to be “teaching” his children **God’s truths from the Word of God**.

“And these words that I command you this day shall be in your heart – and you shall **teach them** to your children .” Deuteronomy 6:6-7

**NOTHING** is more exhausting than raising children – “in the nurture of the Lord”!

[Greek] “**ADMONITION**” = “*nouthesia*” = “reproof.warning/discipline”

The Bible says that a father is **not only** to be teaching his children God’s truths – but also to be confronting them when they disobey God’s truths.

And, if necessary – loving them enough to **discipline them**.

“For what child is there whom his father does not discipline?” Hebrews 12:7

**SADLY** – lots of fathers today are either too cowardly or too lazy to discipline their children.

A child with no “fatherly” admonition and discipline in their life will:

• **AT BEST** – grow up to be an ill-mannered brat
• **AT WORST** – grow up to be a danger to themselves and everybody around them

The Bible says that to let a child grow up with no discipline is to **curse** that child.

“Do not withhold **discipline** from your child .” Proverbs 23:13

“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of **discipline** will drive it far from him/her.” Proverbs 22:15

“He who spares the rod hates his child, but he who loves his child is **diligent** to discipline him.” Proverbs 13:24

Biblical discipline – **DONE PROPERLY** – is not an act of meanness, but an act of love!

“For whom the LORD loves, He **disciplines**, even as a **father** the son in whom he delights.” Proverbs 3:12
I don’t believe a father has to **personally DO** all the discipline in his home – but I believe it is his responsibility to **set the guidelines** for that discipline – and then to make sure those guidelines are **consistently** carried out.

Your children have lots of friends – but **only one father**! And that’s what they **need you** to be!

You be your children’s “father” now – and you will be their friend when they grow up and have children of their own – and they suddenly “get it”!

**“Fathers** – bring your children up in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4

“...they may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, and being fruitful in every good work...” Colossians 1:10