As for me and my house – Eph.6:4

**Focal Truth: Parents must nurture their children in the training and instruction of the Lord**

Did you know that God has designed that gospel truths are first to be shared by parents with their children?

Why has God designed parents to be the first to train & instruct their children in gospel truths?

How important is the role of parents in the training & instruction of their children in gospel truths?

Paul in Ephesians speaks of family responsibilities

6:1 – He calls on children to obey their parents this is right in the Lord

6:2 – 3 - He reminds children to honor father and mother

6:4 – Paul turns to the parents reminding them of their duty to bring up their children without provoking them to anger in the training & instruction of the Lord

*Here Paul teaches the first principles of caring for your children’s soul*

**Observations**

1. **Godly parents lovingly nurture their children in the training & instruction of the Lord 6:4**
2. Do not provoke them to anger in training & instructing them in the Lord provoke = parorgizo to stir up, exasperate to anger, agitation that results in anger

Col. 3:21 – Fathers, do not exasperate your children so that they will not lose heart

aythemeo = disheartened, broken in spirit

Many ways to provoke your children – harsh words, ignoring them, avoiding them, treating them without respect…

Gen. 37:3 – now Israel loved Joseph more than all the other sons, because he was the son of his old age, and he made him a multicolored tunic

Gen. 37:4 – his brothers saw that their father loved. Him mor than all his brothers and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms

The anger of the brothers to their father:

 They lied to him about what happened to Joseph

 They pretended to encourage him when he grieved over the loss of his son

 They kept the secret of what they did to their brother from their father

1. Bring them up – ektrepho = nourish up to maturity

Nourish = to provide what is necessary for life, health, and growth

1 Thess. 2:7 – we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children

 1 Thess. 2:11 – just as you know how we were exhorting & encouraging & imploring each one of you as a father would his own children

Nurture your children as uniquely given by God for you to grow to maturity

Nurture your children remembering they are born sinners who must be saved by faith in Jesus Christ

Nurture your children patiently, lovingly, from birth to maturity

1. **Godly parents carefully train their children in the ways of the Lord 6:4**
2. Bring them up in the discipline of the Lord = paideia – training – the process of training children in development of their mind, morals
3. Elements of spiritual childhood training
4. Instruction of the mind
5. Shaping of the character
6. Bending of the will
7. Awakening the conscience
8. Enriching the soul
9. Building the body
10. Training in word & by example

2 Tim. 3:15 – from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus

Way of salvation & truth in Jesus Christ

Way of prayer & worship of God – including regular church attendance

Way of reading God’s word

1. **Godly parents diligently instruct their children in the Word of the God 6:4**
2. Bring them up in the instruction of the Lord – instruction – nousthesia = warnings
3. Teach your children God’s warnings, commands, & directionss

Deut. 6:7 – you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up

Teach your children God’s Word in the daily routines of life

Talk about God’s Word

Talk of God’s word when you sit in your house

Talk of God’s word when you walk by the way – as you travel from place to place

Talk of God’s word when you go to bed

Talk of God’s word when you get up in the morning

1. Teach your children God’s word for your children’s children

Pas. 78: 4 -8 - we will tell to the generation to come the praises of the Lord and His strength and His wondrous works that He has done. For he established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers that they should teach them to their children. That the generation to come might know even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children, that they should put their confidence in God and not forget the works of God but keep his commandments

**Things to Remember**

1. Angry children resist the truth of God’s ways & Word
2. Lovingly nourishing your children that they might believe in the Lord Jesus Christ
3. Your children’s spiritual life is in your hands
4. Show, teach & tell your children of the praise, power & salvation that comes through Jesus Christ

**Daily Use – Family Challenge**

1. As a family find 3 ways that you can follow God’s teachings this week
2. As parents evaluate how you are doing in your nurture, training & instruction of your children
3. As a family talk about the love of God that sent Jesus Christ to save sinners