

WHAT'S A FATHER TO DO!



Scripture Reading:

Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Ephesians 6:4
Colossians 3:31

INTRODUCTION

A primary purpose that God has given parents is procreation of the human race: “fill full the earth” (Gen 1:22, 9:1).

But an obvious, and equally important purpose is to successfully develop their offspring to adulthood.

OT and NT Scriptures give sufficient instruction for parents and especially FATHERS, to raise and nurture their children.

OLD TESTAMENT INSTRUCTION on FATHERHOOD

1. Successful fathers had a saving relationship with the One True God – “the God of our fathers” – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
2. Successful fathers instructed their children – Deut 6:6-9
3. Successful fathers trained their children (Prov 22:6) responsibilities at home, to society (obey the laws), to learn to work
4. Successful fathers corrected their children – Prov 19:18, 13:24
 - Use of “the rod” – Prov 22:15, 23:13-14, 29:15

NT INSTRUCTION ON FATHERHOOD

Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21

- The Do's and the Don'ts of NT Fathers
 - DON'T “exasperate” your children (kjb “provoke to wrath”)
 - By unreasonable demands (food, instant responsiveness, clothing choices, time allowances, age appropriateness, over-protection)
 - Favoritism

NT INSTRUCTION ON FATHERHOOD

Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21

- DO “bring them up” (kjb “nurture”)
 - By providing material essentials (food on the table, clothing, shelter)
 - By teaching basic Biblical truths and values
 1. Lay a foundation
 - Where all things come from – earth, stars, universe, plants, animals, people
 - What sin is and where it originated
 - Our present condition and future destiny as sinners

NT INSTRUCTION ON FATHERHOOD

Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21 (continued)

2. Explain that they need to decide for themselves; that you can't do that for them

3. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and to use your life as a witness

4. Be consistent – admit when you are wrong!

- Admonition (from the Lord), by warning of unrighteous actions, words, and behaviors

CONCLUSION

- One of the consensus problems in today's families is the absence of the presence and influence of the father. Believing NT fathers have all the necessary resources to accurately and lovingly raise your children while they are in your home. Leave the final result to your Lord and Savior!