

Fathers: Overview

June 15, 2025

This week we'll look at an overview of being a father

DAY 1: The challenge, part 1:

*Eph. 6:1 Children, **obey your parents in the Lord**, for **this is right**.² “**Honor your father and mother**”—which is the first commandment with a promise—³ “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”⁴ Fathers, do not exasperate your children.*

1. What are the two major responsibilities of children?
 2. “Obey your parents in the Lord for this is right.”
 - a. What reasons can you think of why obeying parents is important?
 - b. Children will be involved in school with teachers and coaches. They will be involved in church with pastors. The police and court system will expect them to *obey* the law. What reasons are there for children to **learn how to** obey authority in their home, when young, than having to learn obedience the hard way when older?
 3. “**Honor your father and mother**”—which is the first commandment with a promise—³ “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”
 - a. Honor has to do with one’s *attitude*, while obeying has to do with one’s *actions*.
 - b. Honor your father and mother is one of the 10 Commandments. How does that strike you?
 - c. The promise in verse three of life to “go well” and “enjoy long life...” was given to the Hebrew people after escaping slavery in Egypt. God spoke to the new nation, giving them criminal law, civil law, and ceremonial law. The purposes of all the law can be summarized as Paul writes—that life go well...and enjoy long life. The principle is a **societal** promise! For a nation to thrive, people must learn to be obey authority and be respectful of authority, to honor authority. It is one of the important “glue sticks” of a long and healthy society.
4. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 2: The challenge, part 2

The great challenge of parenting is correcting a child's foolishness and building wisdom.

*Prov. 15:22 **Folly** is bound up in the heart of a child, but **the rod of discipline will drive it far away.***

Our secular culture tends to look at kids as “good kids” or “bad kids.” Given those options, the vast majority of parents see their kids as “good kids.”

But the bible gives us another MAJOR category as we think about our kids: FOOLISH!

Bible's definition of folly or foolishness can be seen in the following ways.

- “I know what I want,
- I can get what I want,
- I can get you to get me what I want,
- I deserve what I want,
- I don't need God,
- I don't need to obey authority—not God, not dad, not mom, not my teachers, coaches, not my drill sergeant, not my boss, not the police, not the judge, not the warden.
- I can avoid the consequences.”

These “beliefs” are core values in every one of us. They come at conception. They make up the dark side of our human nature.

The “way of wisdom” is the virtual opposite of the bullet points listed, above!

*Prov. 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but **fools despise wisdom and instruction.***

Prov. 2:12 Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse,

Prov. 15:22 says “the rod of discipline will drive it (folly) far away.”

In today's world, spanking can get you in trouble with social services. But, the principle of this verse is “painful consequences.” Taking away video games, favorite toys, etc. can be great “rods of discipline.”

→What you are training your children is this—foolish behavior and foolish attitudes don't work. They make things worse.

Ecclesiastes 8:11 When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, people's hearts are filled with schemes to do wrong.

WE NEED DISCIPLINE AND CORRECTION—SO DOES YOUR CHILD.

What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 3: FATHER'S ROLES

We'll look at four vital father roles:

Under each verse, jot down your thoughts...

1. A growing relationship with your wife:

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church.

2. Relational and directional interaction:

*1 Thess. 2:11 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹² **encouraging, comforting and urging** you to live lives **worthy of God**, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.*

3. Training in wisdom and daily living in how life works.

*Prov. 22:6 **Train** up a child on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.*

4. Discipline: giving children tastes of how disobedience and disrespectful living have painful consequences.

*Prov. 15:22 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of **discipline** will drive it far away.*

5. What strikes you from these four roles?

6. What struck you from these three days of devotionals.