

Father's Day

Scripture reading: Prov 4:1-4

To conscientious parents our children and grandchildren represent one of life's most important and unique treasures. Sacrifices are undertaken if their wellbeing is at stake.

At birth, our concern is enormous, and that concern grows as they grow. In adolescent years, our concern passes description.

We provide them the best educational opportunity we can afford. We create special opportunities for them in every form of development from academics, athletics to talent.

We alter our adult schedules for them. We do everything possible to build their self-images, develop their skills, teach them poise, and give them advantages mentally and physically.

- I. **Parents have a spiritual responsibility to provide our children spiritual instruction and guidance.**
 - A. That responsibility existed from Christianity's beginning.
 1. **Ephesians 6:1-4**
 - a. Parents focused on God provide their children a reason to obey them.
 - b. Parents have not abused them, neglected them, refused to love them, or done things to generate and nurture a lasting anger in them.
 - c. Instead, the parents provide them an example of how to live a disciplined life devoted to God and His instructions.
 2. **Colossians 3:21** Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.
 - a. Parents' relationship with their children should not create and nurture a continuing frustration producing a state of discontentment.
 - B. Spiritual guidance does not guaranty our children automatically will become Christian adults.
 1. The Old Testament has a number of examples of godly persons whose children did not follow God.
 2. Samuel was a powerful spiritual influence in Israel in an extremely ungodly period, **I Sam 7:15-17**, but **8:1-3**.
 3. Hezekiah led one of Judah's few spiritual reforms, **II Kings 18:3-5**. But **II Kings 21:2, 9**, tells us about his son Manassa.

II. There are four central themes or principles for the parent child relationship:

1. Leadership
2. Instruction
3. Transferring responsibility
4. Love for the child.
 - a. Fathers are responsible for teaching our children about the world, relationships, right and wrong and all the aspects of daily living, **Deut 6:6-7**.
 - b. We are to teach about everything from God to table manners.
 - c. We must lead our children to the period in their lives when they assume responsibility.

B. We should want to be parents who are not afraid to compassionately care.

Conclusion - In a world filled often times with struggle, we want to be a refreshing place of love and caring, **Psa 127:1-5**.