

## THE NURTURING FATHER.

Eph. 6:4

### INTRODUCTION

The truth of God's Word never changes. In contrast, the doctrine of men is always changing. The view of fatherhood is a classic example. The importance of fatherhood was diminished in the 60s and 70s. Many of the experts did not consider the father's role to be on par with that of mothers. However, today that is changing. The secular society is now beginning to see what Scripture has taught all along, fathers play a major role in the development of kids. Dr. Ditta Olika wrote in Psychology Today back in 2011:

***“There is no question that fathers do play an important part in their children's lives: the majority of studies affirm that an involved father can play a crucial role, particularly in the cognitive, behavioral, and general health and well-being areas of a child's life; having a positive male role model helps an adolescent boy develop positive gender-role characteristics; adolescent girls are more likely to form positive opinions of men and are better able to relate to them when parented by an involved father; it is generally accepted, under most circumstances, that a father's presence and involvement can be as crucial to a child's healthy development as a mother's;”***

That view will probably change several more times before the Lord returns. Scripture, however, continues to stand clear that there that the father plays a huge role in the development of children. It is probable that the absence of fathers in the home, today, is the leading problem facing America. Today, we will consider that the spirit-filled father is like the point-guard of a family. He promotes not only the nourishment of his wife but also the nourishment of his children which is crucial to the cohesiveness of the family.

- I. “BRING THEM UP” IS A PHRASE REGARDING THE FEEDING OF A FATHER.
  - A. The proper way of dealing with children is contrasted with the improper way for raising children. Eph. 6:4
  - B. The phrase “bring them up” is represented by the word *ektrepho*.
    1. The word occurs in this form just two times in the New Testament. Eph. 5:29; 6:4
    2. *Ektrepho* is defined as:
      - a) ***“Denotes the whole process leading up to an attained goal; to nourish, to provide for with tender care.”*** -- Reinecker/Rogers Commentary
      - b) ***“To promote the health and strength.”*** -- Thomas Green lexicon
      - c) The use of the word is focused upon ***the provision of sustenance needed for spiritual and physical growth and development.*** -- K.D.J.

- C. "Bring them up in" is better translated "nourish them by means of". vs.4
- II. TWO THINGS ARE AFFECTED BY THE "BRING UP" OF A SPIRITUAL FATHER.
- A. "Nature" is the means a spiritual father uses to raise children.
1. "Nurture" is the word for paideia -- ***instruction given through corporal and verbal education.***
  2. Scripture is used for the purpose of training. 2 Tim. 3:15
  3. Fathers are the main source of corrective training. Heb. 12:5, 7, 11 (it is challenging to the one being trained)
- B. Admonition" is the means a spiritual father uses to raise children.
1. The Greek word for admonition is nuthesia which is a combination of two words:
    - a) Nous -- mind; the place where thoughts operate.
    - b) Titheemi -- to sit; to place.
  2. The word in composition means ***to place before the mind the proper means of doing something or the truth about a thing.*** -- K.D.J. Cf. 1st Co. 10:11 (of the things that happen to Israel); Tit. 3:10 (of a man who is a heretic)
- III. THE OBJECT OF BRINGING UP A CHILD BY MEANS OF NATURE AND ADMONITION IS THE (A) LORD.
- A. Kurios is used in Scripture to describe one who is a master, to whom others are subject.
1. A Lord has servants. Lk. 12:42
  2. A Lord demands worship. Matt. 8:6; 15:25
  3. Every knee will bow to Jesus as Lord. Phil. 2:11
  4. He bestows mercy tho those who properly minister. 2 Tim. 1:18
  5. He rewards those who represent Him properly. Col. 3:25
- B. The word is used in Ephesians and other places in the New Testament of the authority of a Lord..
1. It is used of One Who comes to set things in order. Matt. 23:39
  2. No one knows His mind. 1st Co. 2:16
  3. Decrees for living derive from Him. 1st Co. 7:25

## CONCLUSION