
Caring for Kids

Ephesians 6:1-4

“Caring for kids”

A 50-plus-year-old man spoke of his late father and had this to say, “He was a wonderful dad, not perfect, but outstanding. The thing I remember best is how my dad would answer my questions.” He went on to say, “He never was harsh, never out of control, His whole life was one of teaching me. There never was a question off limits. When I think back on the fifteen years I had with him, before he died, I think of the saying, 'A wise teacher makes learning a joy.'”

Reflection

The text in Ephesians tells us, as parents, not to be hard. Another translation uses the word “exasperate” or “frustrate.” In our desire to be correct and play by the rules, we often find it difficult to make a transition year-by-year with our children as they develop. The relationship of a man to his sons and daughters is critical. A man teaches his son how to treat a lady by the way he treats his wife, how he speaks of her to others and how he allows others to speak to her. From her father, a girl learns much of what to expect from a man and what to look for in a future husband.

Men, you are God's personal tutor placed in the lives of your children.

Accountability and Application

Am I allowing my preoccupation with my work, my hobbies or my toys to make me miss the blessing of being the dad that God has designed me to be? What specific issues have caused me to be too severe in training my kids?

Prayer: Lord, let me be strong, honest and loving in my relationship with my kids. When I mess up, give me humility to apologize. When I do it well, allow me to glance over my shoulder and see your smile. I'll smile with you because they are also your children.

Ephesians 6:1-4 (New International Version)

Children and Parents

¹Children, 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"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." ⁴Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.