

Instruction to Fathers Part 1: An Overview of Ephesians 6:4

I. Some introductory comments

A) From father to son

B) Words of a wise man to his son

C) A father's trustworthy statement

D) A word from an unlikely father

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II. Placing the instruction to fathers in context

A) The Ephesians Chiasm

B) The call to walk circumspectly

Chiastic Structure of Ephesians

- A 1.3-14 Blessings in the heavenlies
- B 1.15-23 Receiving the Spirit of wisdom and revelation
- C 2.1-10 Walking in good works
- D 2.11-22 Uniting Jews & Gentiles to be a habitation of the Spirit
- E 3.1-13 Unveiling the mystery concerning the Gentiles
- F 3.14-19 Being filled up to the fullness of God
- G 3.20-21 Doxology
- F' 4.1-16 Walking worthy, reaching for the maturity of the fullness of Christ
- E' 4.17-24 Walking not like the Gentiles, but putting on the new man
- D' 4.25-5.7 Walking in love
- C' 5.8-14 Walking in light
- B' 5.15-6.9 ***Walking circumspectly*** in wisdom
- A' 6.10-20 Warfare in the heavenlies

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III. The duties of an earthly father

A) Do not provoke your children to anger

B) Nourish your children with the Lord's ***training***

Definition: Training is the instruction of the Lord taught to the child reinforced with corrective bodily pain in the case of disobedience and strenuous mental and bodily labor for the building of Christ-like character.

C) Nourish your children with the Lord's ***admonition***

Definition: Admonition is the placement of the word of God on the child's mind attended by verbal warnings.

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IV. The urgency of the Father's task

- A) Because of the nature of God's word (Pro. 9:10)
- B) Because of the nature of your child (Pro. 22:15)
- C) Because of the short time (Pro. 19:18)
- D) Because of the expression of true love (Pro. 13:24)
- E) Because of what is at stake (Pro. 22:13-14)
- F) Because of the regretful life (Pro. 17:25)
- G) Because of the promise of obedience (Pro. 22:6)