

**Ephesians 6:3** - that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth NASB  
A. Here the apostle repeats the promise referred to in verse 2. He speaks of the fact that God is providentially involved in their lives either rewarding or disciplining for obedience. God sees to it that we are blessed for obedience and cursed for disobedience. This is an imperative lesson for parents to teach their children. God is the one who gives prosperity and reproofs the wayward!

**Proverbs 12:2-3** - A good man will obtain **favor from the LORD, But He will condemn** a man who devises evil. 3 A man will not be established by wickedness, But the root of the righteous will not be moved. NASB

**Proverbs 13:18** - 18 **Poverty and shame will come to him who neglects discipline,** But he who regards reproof will be honored. NASB

Proper parental training affords the child great blessing in life, it yields a harvest of righteousness! Parental training is the chief *means* God uses to bless our children.

**Hebrews 12:11** - 11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet **to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.** NASB

B. that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth - What is meant by “that it may be well with you?” That you may prosper in life and be blessed. It is *implied* that if there is disobedience, things will NOT be well with you and you will NOT live long.

**Deuteronomy 30:19-20** - 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that **I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live,** you and your descendants, 20 by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days NASB

**Ephesians 6:4** - And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord NASB

A. Here the apostle turns his attention to the “*fathers.*” Now his directives give the fathers instruction in parenting, dealing with their relationship with their children. Further, it should be noted that these directives also apply to the wife for her role is to be a suitable helper (Gen 2:18) to the husband who is charged with this duty. It goes without saying that mother should “*not provoke your children to anger*” either, and that she should “*bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*”

B. fathers, do not provoke your children to anger – Paul tells the parents not to provoke the children to anger for this will surely cause tremendous problems in life for a child. The untold misery of an angry person is pitiful. It robs a person of God’s peace and joy and causes them to sin again and again by anger. Consider, in what ways may a father provoke his children to anger?

- By *unreasonable* commands; these can make a child angry.
- By *needless* severity; severity without restraint will make a child angry.
- By the manifestation of anger, by disciplining out of **ANGER** - Do not discipline a child in the heat of the moment, but wait until your temperament has cooled. A child *will* become angry if you discipline in anger.
- So govern them, and so punish them that if punishment is necessary, that they shall not lose their confidence in you, but shall love you. Make every effort to communicate your sincere love to the child in the disciplining process.

- Be sure they understand **WHY** they are being disciplined. A child can become angry if they think they are being disciplined needlessly. Teach them how the discipline is for their good so that they will learn to love it and honor you for it!

**Hebrews 12:9** - Furthermore, **we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them;**

C. bring them up in the discipline..... of the Lord - Here parents are told to **“bring them up”**, that is, to train them up, to instruct, to aid in the maturing process.

**Proverbs 22:6** - 6 **Train up a child in the way he should go,** Even when he is old he will not depart from it. NASB

Consider, what it means to **“bring them up in the discipline of the Lord?”**

- To *establish proper authority* and use it wisely and with loving guidance. You cannot establish your authority unless you **ASSERT** it! Does God assert His authority with you? By what means? By means of constant teaching, by threatenings and consequences, and by loving discipline and correction. **Hebrews 12:5-11** - 5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "My son, **do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,** Nor faint when you are reprov'd by Him; 6 **For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives."** 7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline ? 8 But if you are without discipline , of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.
- To so govern them as to always do what is in their **BEST** interest, not yours Train them to obey, teach them obedience. You must see to it that they follow through in obedience, **DISCIPLINE** them! You must command them and cause them to follow through. You must **ENFORCE** your authority. **Proverbs 22:15** - 15 **Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;** The rod of discipline will remove it far from him. NASB  
If you are unwilling to discipline your children, you do not truly love them, or you do not understand how to implement godly love. Does God discipline you?  
**Revelation 3:19** - 19 **Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline;** be zealous therefore, and repent. NASB
- To make sure they obey God, it is God’s will(not yours) that they must *ultimately* obey. We teach them to obey as a *means* of teaching them to obey God which is the ultimate goal in parenting. **Proverbs 19:18** - 18 Discipline your son while there is hope, And **do not desire his death.** NASB
- Teach them the value of self-discipline and hard work. The diligent will prosper and the lazy sluggard will come to poverty!  
**Proverbs 10:4** - 4 Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, But **the hand of the diligent makes rich.** NASB

D. bring them up in the.....instruction of the Lord – Consider what it means to **“bring them up in the instruction of the Lord?”**

- To understand and apply the didactic(teaching) nature of parenting. The very nature of parenting is one of constant teaching and instruction, training and reproof. **Deuteronomy 6:6-7** - 6 And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; 7 and **you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them**

**when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.** NASB

- Teach them to fear God. Folly is in the heart of a child by nature, your child's nature is sinful, by nature your child naturally provokes God to wrath (Eph 2:3). You must teach them to honor God, His authority, and fear His judgment. These must be constantly reaffirmed in order for them to become part of the child's thinking process and for obedience to God to become their ordinary behavior.

**Proverbs 9:10** - 10 **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,** And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. NASB

**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** - 13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: **fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.** 14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil. NASB

- Teach them that wisdom is supreme and that they should constantly pursue it. You must teach them that wisdom will guide them and protect them all the days of their life and keep them from the destruction and misery brought to us by foolish choices.

**Proverbs 3:13-18** - 13 How **blessed is the man who finds wisdom**, And the man who gains understanding. 14 For its profit is better than the profit of silver, And its gain than fine gold. 15 **She is more precious than jewels; And nothing you desire compares with her.** 16 Long life is in her right hand; In her left hand are riches and honor. 17 Her ways are pleasant ways, And all her paths are peace. 18 **She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who hold her fast.** NASB

- Teach them to love God –  
**Deuteronomy 6:5-6** - 5 "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; NASB
- To make sure they learn to discern good and evil
- To convict, correct, and to train