

“Parents, Don’t Frustrate!”

Ephesians 6:4a

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“And fathers, do not provoke [exasperate, NIV] your children to anger” (NASB)

“Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they may not lose heart [be discouraged, KJV]” (Colossians 3:21, NASB)

Harmony in the home is achieved when all parties involved are living in accord with biblical principles. Children are to obey their parents. Parents have their obligations as well. First and foremost, they are NOT to frustrate their children—they are to forsake all godless means and methods of parenting. Today we examine many common pitfalls in parenting that need to be abandoned and avoided.

A. Both parents are responsible in childrearing (Proverbs 1:8)

1. The father is the leader, initiator and overseer...and accountable

“Fathers”

2. The mother is the father’s partner

Plural use of *patera* (father) includes mothers

B. First of all, avoid doing the wrong things!

1. This is a command, not a suggestion

“do not”!

2. Godly parenting does not come naturally

“Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior...teaching what is good, that they may train the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home” (Titus 2:3-5)

3. Parents make indelible, life-long impressions on their children

“that they may not lose heart” (Colossians 3:21)

“Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6)

4. Don’t frustrate your children!

C. Common ways parents frustrate their children:

1. Favoritism: *“if you show partiality, you are committing sin” (James 2:9)*

2. Neglect: *“nurture them” (Ephesians 6:4); “if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1 Timothy 5:8)*

3. Permissive Parenting: *“The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother” (Proverbs 29:15)*

4. Child-Centered Parenting: *“he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me” (Matthew 10:37)*

5. **Legalism**: “why do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, ‘Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!’... in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?” (Colossians 2:20-22)
6. **Overprotection**: “do what is right without being frightened by any fear” (1 Peter 3:6)
7. **Hyper-critical**: “A man’s discretion makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook a transgression” (Proverbs 19:11); (cf. Revelation 2-3)
8. **Discouragement**: “An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up” (Proverbs 12:25)
9. **Hypocrisy**: “put aside all...hypocrisy” (1 Peter 2:1)
10. **Injustice**: “To show partiality in judgment is not good” (Proverbs 24:23); “He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him” (Proverbs 18:13)
11. **Wrong expectations**: “When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child” (1 Corinthians 13:11)
12. **Unbiblical Discipline**: “do not sin in your anger” (Ephesians 4:26)

13. **Pride**: “confess your sins to one another” (James 5:16)
14. **False comparisons**: “when they measure themselves by themselves, and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding” (2 Corinthians 10:12)
15. **Promise Breaking**: “But let your statement be, ‘Yes, yes,’ or ‘No, no’; and anything beyond this is evil” (Matthew 5:37)
16. **Public humiliation**: “reprove him in private” (Matthew 18:15)
17. **Marital conflict**: “the two shall become one” (Matthew 19:5)
 “God has called us to peace” (1 Corinthians 7:15)
 “See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled” (Hebrews 12:15)
 “in so far as it depends upon you, be at peace with all men” (Romans 12:18)

D. Parental Diagnostic Evaluation: