

Nurturing Is the Way

Scripture

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother,’ which is the first commandment with promise: ‘that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.’ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” (Eph 6:1-4 NKJV)

Devotion

O’ how I wish I would have been more obedient to my parents. My rebellion cost me a good deal of trouble throughout my life. Of course we can’t go back, but let us push forward with wisdom.

Fathers are not to provoke their children to wrath, but to bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. The AV uses the word nurture instead of training, and that seems to convey the idea better, or at least it speaks to motive and method better than training. The Spartans use to train their children by making them fight, and a weak child was often allowed to perish as his worth to society was not valued. Instead, we are to nurture our children, to train them in such a way that they see the benefit of obedience.

What causes a child to be provoked? Clearly being too harsh is a problem, but an even greater problem is a lack of relationship, a lack of love. I picked this up somewhere: discipline without relationship breeds rebellion, and relationship without discipline breeds resentment.

If a child sees that you have their best interests at heart, they will receive discipline. However, if you demand obedience as a harsh taskmaster, he will eventually rebel. He may openly comply, but inwardly seeds of rebellion are germinating. Don’t allow the pendulum to swing the other way though because no discipline will cause your child think you don’t love them.

God is our perfect Father. He disciplines all of His children appropriately and timely. Along with the discipline He provides an abundance of love. He picks us up when we fall and He heals our wounds. He never leaves us or forsakes us.

Let us do our best to be like our Heavenly Father.