

September 1, 2021

Eph. 6:4, “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the LORD.” (NIV)

Paul is sounding out an important principle here. This is an exhortation directed to fathers, but apropos for all of us to understand and put into practice. We should not be in the habit of antagonizing or irritating others. I believe it is far too easy for us to be people who irritate each other; especially with our words. Whether we understand this or not, our children are super sensitive to our words and our actions. They can see and understand when we are motivated by anger or frustration, and this can be passed on to them in multiple different ways.

What Paul says is a point of self-evaluation for all of us. We should not only not be like this towards our children, but to anyone in our lives. I think all of us know what it is like to “push someone’s buttons.” We sometimes get some warped sense of satisfaction if we can make someone else angry or annoyed. Instead, we should desire to be a conduit of the LORD’s Spirit towards our children; and for that matter, towards everyone in our lives. And, for our children specifically, the best form of teaching is in modeling that expected outcome for them. They are always watching and they can perceive what is truly in our hearts. There is a time for correction and rebuke, but there is also much more time for encouragement and congratulations for lessons learned. Our children and their children will certainly benefit from both.

Let’s remember how our Heavenly Father teaches us and then model ourselves akin to this. He is a loving Father Who sets boundaries, enforces them, and yet is willing to run to the child who is repentant and show his love to them.

Dear Father, You are our amazing Father Who shows us Your love, Your encouragement, Your instruction and correction. We are blessed beyond measure to have you as our loving Father. Thank You for Your amazing love. In Jesus Name, Amen