

Text: Ephesians 6:1-4

Title: Raising Kids that Count

ETS: Paul instructed the Ephesians in how to raise children who would honor the Lord and their parents.

ESS: Raising kids that count requires teamwork between both the children and their parents, particularly the fathers.

OSS: I want the hearer to raise up God-honoring children.

Question: What does it take to raise children who will bring honor to God and their parents?

Unifying Word: Ingredients

INTRODUCTION

OUTLINE

- I. It takes children who obey.
 - A. Paul wrote to the children and reminded them of their responsibilities for the family's health.
 - B. The same responsibilities that Paul applied to the Ephesian children still apply today.
 - 1. Children should obey their parents.
 - 2. Children should honor their parents.
 - C. These responsibilities come with a couple of promises from God.
 - 1. That it may go well with you.
 - 2. That you may live long in the land.
 - D. This expectation to obey parents has some connections to adulthood as well.
 - 1. When we begin as children to obey our parents, it makes it easier to obey God as adults.
 - 2. There is no expiration date on the command to honor our parents.
- II. It takes parents who try.
 - A. Paul also reminded parents, and especially fathers, of their responsibilities in raising godly children.
 - B. Being a parent is an important job.
 - C. Fathers play a particularly important role in a child's life.
 - 1. Approximately 17.6 million children in the U.S.—nearly 1 in 4—live without a biological, step, or adoptive father in the home (U.S. Census Bureau, 2024).
 - 2. Children with involved fathers are twice as likely to attend college.
 - 3. 71% of all high school dropouts come from father-absent homes.
 - 4. Children living with their fathers perform better in school, with lower risks of failure and course dropout.
 - 5. Involved fathers reduce children's behavior problems in middle childhood and adolescence, while enhancing cognitive development and self-esteem.
 - 6. Father involvement is linked to fewer depressive symptoms in adolescents and lower risks of psychological problems in young women.

7. 63% of youth suicides occur among children from father-absent homes.
8. Children with involved fathers are 80% less likely to spend time in jail.
9. 85% of youth in prison come from fatherless homes.
10. Individuals from homes where the father is absent are 279% more likely to carry guns and deal drugs than those living with their fathers.
11. A father's absence early in a child's life is associated with higher rates of delinquency and criminal behavior in adulthood.
12. Children from fatherless homes are **four times** more likely to live in poverty.
13. 90% of homeless and runaway children come from father-absent homes.
14. Children with involved fathers are 75% less likely to experience teen pregnancy.
15. Father absence increases the risk of infant mortality, with rates four times higher in the first 28 days of life for infants without involved fathers.
16. Adolescents with absent fathers face greater risks of substance use, such as marijuana, due to associated poverty and neighborhood quality.

17. A FATHER'S MOST IMPORTANT JOB IS AT HOME.

D. As it relates to children, Paul gives fathers two important responsibilities.

1. Do not anger your children.
2. Raise your children to know and love the Lord.

E. The effective witness of a godly home doesn't happen by accident; it takes everyone.

CONCLUSION