

THE DIFFERENCE A DAD CAN MAKE
EPH 6:4 / 6-16-19 / AM

I. FIRST, BEING A DAD ISN'T A CHOICE.

- A. God expects dads to be involved in raising their kids.
- B. Paul makes this clear in our text—6:4 **“Fathers...bring them up”**.
 - 1. This isn't an option.
 - 2. The tense of this verb is an “imperative” meaning it's a command.

II. SECOND, BEING A DAD REQUIRES FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS.

- A. Men are notorious about following instructions.
- B. Paul, however, provides two kinds of instructions for dads to follow.
 - 1. The first instruction is a negative, something dads shouldn't do.
 - a. Paul says to dads in our text—**“Father's do not exasperate your children...”**
 - b. Paul isn't referring to the “garden variety” kind of anger.
 - c. Instead, Paul is talking about an anger that can lead children to rebel against parental authority.
 - d. This is the meaning of the Greek word Paul uses here. It's **“parorgizete”**. It's a call to avoid unfair or cruel behavior that results in alienation.
 - e. Paul has already instructed Christians, certainly including Christian parents about anger—Eph. 4:31-32.
 - 2. The second instruction by Paul to dads is positive. He lists two positive things dads must do.
 - a. One positive action says Paul is---**“Fathers....train your children.”**
 - i. The Greek word used here is “paideia” and means discipline with actions and with words, both words of correction and words of encouragement.

- ii. The Bible tells us in several places when and how parents are to discipline their children.

Early “discipline while there is still hope”
(Pvbs. 19:8)

Consistently “do not hold discipline back”
(Pvbs.23:13)

Painfully “No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful” (Heb. 12:11)

Lovingly “the Lord disciplines those He loves”
(Rev. 3: 19)

- b. A second positive action says Paul is—“**Fathers...bring your children up in the instruction of the Lord.**”
 - i. Too many dads are more concerned with their children’s batting average or grade average than they are with their spiritual instruction.
 - ii. Paul says don’t sacrifice your child’s spiritual well-being for their physical well-being.
 - iii. Unlike sports, spiritual training is more “caught” than “taught”.
 - iv. If the things of God aren’t important to you then they won’t be important to your children either.