

**Ephesians 6:1-4** *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."*

**Psalms 103:13** *"As a father pities his children, So the Lord pities those who fear Him."*

**Luke 11:9-13** *"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"*

**Matthew 24:12** *"And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold."*

**2 Timothy 3:1-7** *"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."*

**I. THE BEST DAD** *"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name..."*

*...How much more will your Father in heaven....* The best example that we have for a great father is our Heavenly Father! Meditate for a moment on His fatherly attributes: He gives us unconditional love & acceptance. He is a great provider & protector! Although he chastens us, it is always for our good and He never loses His self-control. Our Heavenly Father is approachable and He encourages us to cast our cares upon Him because He cares about us. No concern is too small. He is not distant, but desires to have close intimate fellowship. He always keeps His promises! Our Heavenly Father never holds a grudge, but He forgives us the moment we humble ourselves and ask for it. Finally, He is compassionate and full of mercy: **Psalms 103:13** *As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him*

**II. THE BAD DADS** *the love of many will grow cold." ....SEE 2 Tim 3:1-7*

**A. Jacob: favoritism he showed toward Joseph:** this provoked other sons to wrath.

**B. Eli:** Though he verbally rebuked his sons, he did not restrain them because he enjoyed the fat and bounty brought to him by his sons. **1 Sam 2:22-24; 27-30 and 1 Sam 3:13**

**C. Samuel:** **1 Samuel 8:1-7** Samuel was raised by Eli, thus he didn't have a good example of parenting to learn from. Samuel's sons were therefore also greedy

**D. David:** Tamar was raped by Ammon, yet David did not discipline Ammon. This neglect provoked Absalom to take matters in his own hand and he murdered Ammon. Then, when Absalom rebelled against authority, David neglected to discipline him and this led to a war. This sin was repeated again with another son/ **1 Kings 1:5-6** *Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king"; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. 6 (And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, "Why have you done so?" He was also very good-looking. His mother had borne him after Absalom.)*

### **III. BETTER DADS**

**TRANSITION:** We've looked at the Best Dad, our heavenly Father, and some Bad dad's of scripture. How can we be better dad's and provide discipline, yet not provoke our children to wrath?

### **II. LOOK AT THE GUIDANCE GIVEN TO FATHERS IN REGARDS TO THE DISCIPLINE AND UPBRINGING THEY ARE TO PROVIDE.**

**A.** **Maintain the balance!** **And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath,** Firm, corporal discipline is required as evidenced by these scriptures: **Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15.** Our text brings out the balance and this balance is extremely important! Both extremes are wrong and horribly damaging to the child and society. The lack of corporal discipline is caused by:

1. Wrong view of the nature of man: man has inherited a sinful nature.
2. A reaction to the Victorian severity and sergeant major techniques that drive children to wrath.
3. A misunderstanding of the atonement: **It pleased the Father to bruise His Son.**
4. A misunderstanding of the new birth: The sin nature necessitates regeneration.

**B.** **How does one maintain the balance?**

1. **Be not drunk with wine, but be filled with the Holy Spirit**
2. First, exercise self-control and discipline over one's own temper. Never discipline when you, yourself, are out of control and angry. That is why my mother often said, **"wait until your father get's home."**
3. Be consistent! Don't be changeable, unpredictable, or unreasonable.
4. Be willing to listen to the child's case. We enjoy having a right to a fair trial.
5. Spirit filled parents are not selfish and domineering and possessive.
6. Discipline must always be reasonable and with purpose of teaching the child to think and make good choices thus preparing child for independent living. The mechanical sergeant major techniques of "do it 'cause I said so!!!" is bad.
7. The punishment must fit the crime and natural consequences are often best. A severe over reaction by the parent that is unreasonable drives the child to wrath.
8. Don't humiliate the child in front of peers and do not trample a child's personality.
9. Recognize the growth and maturity of your child as they reach adolescent age! They must have the freedom to learn from their mistakes We must give the child the freedom to make their own spiritual choices!
10. Be empathetic and show empathy. Be firm and consistent, but be loving and accepting!
11. **Fruit of the Spirit is Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, faith and temperance.**