

## Tutorial #4

# TO THE BROTHERS: FATHERHOOD

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Concerning the matter as to how we are to be good fathers, the bible gives us these instructions; we are to encourage, comfort and exalt our children in all their endeavors – be it spiritual or common issues (I Thess 2:11). The word of God gives a guarantee for success in raising children. Proverbs 22:6 quotes, **“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”** Notice the responsibility of the parents is to raise the children in a righteous manner. Then, with the power of God’s word embedded in the mind, the child will grow as a seed and manifest his or herself, once a mature age is reached. I think that this is very important information for us as parents because there may be rough and tough times along the way. As long as the commandments and testimonies are instilled in a young child, the end results will be wonderful. As for the middle years, we are to use the rod as the scriptures state. Proverbs 23:13 quotes, **“Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.”** (Reference scripture: Proverbs 29:15) Please understand that while using the rod, we must have complete control over our anger. Ephesians 4:26-27 quotes: (v26) **“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: (v27) Neither give place to the devil.”**

Remember, our homes are reflections of the relationship between Christ and the church. Therefore, we as men will be stern and firm in our demand in obedience from our children. We shall also display mercy, compassion, and long-suffering that Christ shows to the church. In order to fully accomplish this, we must have input from our wives, who will let you know if you are going too far with your punishment and chastisements. Both of you together can appropriately arrive at the correct decision as to what redirection is needed. We must be mindful of the fact that righteousness cannot be beaten into a child, it must grow as a seed, and as parents we must feed and water that seed. Ultimately, it’s the spirit within, which makes it grow. So, we as fathers especially, must not hurt the planting of the Lord. Let’s notice the watch word from the Apostle Paul. Colossians 3:21: **“Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.”** Paul is referring to fathers that are so hard on their children that performing the word of God becomes a grievous burden to the point that they feel discouraged and cannot live a righteous life.

There was a man who from his youth thought that having a love for children would make him a great father. He began to establish himself among his peers; then all at once, the things that he taught and believed in began to be tested. This man stumbled and fell, time after time, until he felt lost. This forced him to his knees and he cried out to heaven. God heard his cry and directed him to return unto his first love. He began to put God first, and re-establish the relationship he had with his wife. God gave him the ability to reacquaint himself with the laws and testimonies: something he could not do on his own, though he had attempted to do so many times in the past. With the testimonies firmly on display, he was able to reconnect with his children, especially the child whom he thought he had lost forever. To his surprise, it was not his teaching or direction that brought the child home, it was the word of God that was already placed within him. So, as God was directing this man, he was also healing his son that both of them together could give glory to God.

In conclusion, the following scriptures must come into play (found in Eph 5:23-27 and Eph 6:1-4):

- ***For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.***
- ***Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.***
- ***Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;***

- *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*
- *Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.*
- *And, ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*
- *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*
- *That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”*

The only thing that the devil can throw at us is old sins. He will attempt to cause trouble by bringing to mind all the things that were said and done in the past. Do not fall into this trap, because once you repent and reconcile with one another – be it husband and wife, or parents and children – there is no need to rehash old incidents. Here is what the Lord has to say regarding this point:

1. Hebrews 10:22 *“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”*
2. Also Hebrews 12:1-12
  - (V1) *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*
  - (V2) *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*
  - (V3) *For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*
  - (V4) *Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.*
  - (V5) *And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:*
  - (V6) *For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*
  - (V7) *If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*
  - (V8) *But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*
  - (V9) *Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?*
  - (V10) *For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.*
  - (V11) *Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*
  - (V12) *Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; 12:13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.”*

All praises be to the full throne of God!  
William L. Scott Sr.