Raising A Family

Antoine Holloway · Ephesians 6:4 · Series: **Preparing Our Youth For What's Next**

INTRODUCTION

- When you become a Christian and you turn around and you break God's law, then not only have you broken God's law, you've also broken God's heart.
- Satan's strategy is to try to get that child further and further away from God. God's strategy through child rearing is to bring that child closer and closer and closer to him.
- Satan's strategy is to effectively alienate and sever a parent's relationship with their children.

1 Raise Our Children With Fairness

Ephesians 6:4

- Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger. This means that as parents, we need to raise our children with fairness.
- There is a legacy of unfairness going on in the life of Jacob. Jacob is showing favoritism among his children.
- When you see a legacy of unfairness, then you begin to see this trickle down. We have to be determined to break the cycle.
- If there was fairness, there would be no sibling rivalries.
- We provoke our children to anger when we show favoritism against them. We provoke our children to anger when we discourage them. We provoke our children to anger when we neglect them.
- Always try instructive discipline first before you have to give out punitive discipline.

2 Raise Our Children in Tenderness

Ephesians 6:4; Psalm 103:13

- Not only do we have to raise our children with fairness, but we must raise our children in tenderness.
- To nurture means to feed and protect, to nurture means to support and encourage.
- We're not supposed to discourage our children. We're supposed to encourage our children.
- As a parent, you have the difficult task of being an encourager and providing wise counsel against something all at the same time.
- As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.
- As parents, if we have been wrong or too harsh with them, we must grow up, clearly confess our wrongdoing and ask forgiveness.

3 Raise Our Children With Firmness

Ephesians 6:4; Romans 2:4; Luke 16

- As parents, we must raise our children with firmness.
- There's not one scripture in the Bible that says God commands you to be your child's friend.

- Just because your parents have denied you something, they're doing that for your protection. They're doing that for your good.
- To admonish means to caution, to advise or counsel against something.
- There will be consequences for every wrong that you do. So this is why your parents raise you with firmness to keep you from making those mistakes.
- So God wakes you up, he wakes everybody else up. Why? Because he gives us one more day to make things right with him.

4 Raise Our Children in Christ

Ephesians 6:4; Genesis 18:19

- We need to raise our children in Christ. Your parents are trying to raise you in Christ to teach you to have a relationship with Him.
- I know Abraham is going to command his children. He's going to command his household in the ways of the Lord.
- God should be able to say that about your parents today. And when you all become parents, God should be able to have the same testimony about you.
- We have to raise our children with tenderness, with fairness, with firmness, and we must do it in Christ.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **You do have parents, talk to them. You do have elders, talk to them. You do know preachers, talk to them. You do know trusted adults that love the Lord, talk to them.**

MY NOTES