

Sermon Notes
Themes from Ephesians
“The Duty of Parents” Ephesians 6:4

I. Introduction.

A. How not to raise your kids.

1. 1st Century during the days of Paul.

B. Disinterest is a huge problem.

1. Harvard sociologists.

II. Today’s text – Ephesians 6:4.

A. The negative aspect of Paul’s admonition.

1. Do not provoke or do not exasperate.

a. Colossians 3:21

2. Discipline should never be arbitrary.

3. Ways we may provoke.

a. Favoritism among siblings.

b. Instructing by way of sarcasm or jesting.

c. Pushing achievement beyond reasonable bounds.

d. Failing to encourage.

e. Physical or verbal abuse.

B. Positive side of Paul’s admonition.

1. Bring up in discipline and instruction.

2. Requires spiritual growth on part of parents.

3. Psalmist observing Israel – Psalm 78:1-8.

4. Children bear responsibility, too – I John 3:12.

III. Pastoral observations.

A. Preparatory remarks.

1. No guilt.

B. Observations.

1. The problem of time.

2. Question: What is the goal that Christian parents are supposed to focus upon?

3. What about schooling?

4. We need godly men.

IV. Point for Reflection.

A. Do not lose sight of the ball.