

Series on Marriage and the Family – sermon 13 – 11/07/10 (am)

Discipline and Instruction

Ephesians 6:1-4

(Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

Theme: Parents are to bring up their children in the discipline (training) and instruction of the Lord.

Nourish Your Children

The Apostle Paul's positive instruction
to parents.

Bring them up means nourish.

This is the word used of Jesus
nourishing the Church, *cf.* 5:29.

Discipline (Training) and Instruction of the Lord

How are parents to *nourish* children?

In the *discipline* and *instruction* ***of the Lord.***

Parents are to primarily employ God's methods.

To do this, parents:

- 1. need to be Christians.** If not you cannot give your child spiritual guidance! Your child will suffer!
- 2. need to know how God expects you to bring up your child.**

**A. Bringing children up in the *training* of
the Lord.**

The Greek means *training by
discipline/punishment*.

The same word is used in Hebrews
12:5-11.

Modern attitudes to 'the rod' are shaped by two factors:

- a prolonged overreaction to Victorian disciplinarianism.
- an unBiblical view of human nature that sees it as essentially good.

Parents must be prepared to use the rod if need be, *cf.* Prov. 13:24, 22:15, 29:15...

...but must note guidelines for such *discipline:*

- It must not be severe or unjust.
- It must be fair.
- It must not be done in anger or rage.
- It must be administered in love.

**B) Bringing children up in the
instruction of the Lord.**

The Greek means verbal instruction.

Parents have first responsibility for
this.

**How are parents to rear their children
in the instruction of the Lord?**

Generally:

bring conversation about the Lord into
every aspect of family life, *cf.*

Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

Specifically:

Pray with your children – even as infants in their cots.

Teach your covenant child about prayer and how to pray.

Read the Scriptures with your children and explain them.

Evangelise your children.

Reinforce what your children are
taught in church.

Be an example to your children at
home, in recreation, in church!

Answer your child's questions. This
means that you yourself must know
the Scriptures!

Conclusion: Our Duty as Parents

Our duty as parents is to do the best
for our children.

God tells us what that is.

We are to *nourish* them in the *training*
and *instruction* of the Lord.