

The Gospel and the Roles of Father and Mother

Our Heavenly Father and His gospel is the pattern and power for earthly fathers (and mothers)

2 Corinthians 1:3–4 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the **Father of mercies** and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

Note part of His gospel purpose is “to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children” (Luke 1:17)

Hebrews 12:6–11 *For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” ... God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons... he disciplines us for our good... earthly fathers disciplined us and we respected them ... they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them...For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

The NT epistles give a few commands to parents but more patterns of what we are to be

1 Thessalonians 2:7–12 (NIV) *we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. Surely you remember...our toil and hardship; we worked night and day ... you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, **encouraging, comforting** and urging you to live lives worthy of God ...”*

Greek for *encouraging* = to come alongside to help, aid, strengthen, entreat, persuade, etc.

Greek for *comforting* = to console, support, cheer up, advise, speak in a friendly manner

NASB: “imploring each one of you as a father would his own children...”

ESV: “like a father...we exhorted...and charged you to walk in a manner worthy...”

NLT: “as a father treats his own children, we pleaded with each one of you...”

Colossians 3:21 (NAS) *Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.* (NIV ‘do not embitter’, NLT ‘do not aggravate’, ESV ‘lest they become discouraged’, ISV ‘resentful’)

Ephesians 6:4 *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and **instruction** of the Lord.* [Greek ‘instruction’ = ‘word of encouragement or reproof,’ related to *noutheteo* – ‘to counsel, to correct, to call for proper belief and behavior, appeal to the heart’]

KJV: ‘nurture and admonition’, NKJV: ‘training’, YLT: ‘nourish them in the instruction’

See <https://vimeo.com/10766237> (video on ‘creating a balance of nurture and structure’)

Titus 2:3–5 *Older women ... are to teach what is good, and so **train** the young women to **love** their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.*

Greek for ‘love’ – root *fila* – filial love, friendly familial affection in action, related to *agape*

Greek for ‘train’ – *sophranizo* – advise, train or correct the thinking to act with proper mindset

- Click here for practical examples of training our thinking with the gospel

- Click here for training the mind that doesn't "feel" the same love for an adopted child