

Child Training — Fathers and Sons

The eyes of our Father are upon your son.

Why would boys be ashamed of pulling their hair back and wearing headbands when their fathers wear their hair like that? They should want to imitate their fathers. What is lacking here? Is it in the fathers or the sons?

The boys need to be friends with their fathers and with the other single brothers. They should take an interest in the boys, especially in their household. This is one of the ministries of single disciples like Paul S., Marcel C., even Daniel B., Marcel M., etc. We must make these boys desire to be disciples. This will not just come through spankings but (especially at this age) *through friendship*.

They are to love the work their fathers give them. They must work along with their fathers, sharing in their fathers' joy in what they are doing. The father's positive attitude about what he is doing, will go into his son. If the son is lazy and without vision, the father must give him vision. If he is rebellious to work, he needs a spanking. But these boys need *much encouragement and attentive love from their fathers*.

They are not without hope, but we must be realistic about their condition. These are the future leaders of the church and we must be putting in them *passion* for justice, for goodness. This comes by sharing our mind with them on a friendship level, not just at times of reproof for their disobedience.

Make sure they are not allowed to bicker. Just like you wouldn't expect to hear Paul Koch and Daniel Brosseau talking to one another in an argumentative voice, neither should these children be allowed to do it. Bickering always needs reproof or other discipline. (We saw much bickering among the boys down in Bethlehem. *Surely*, they never hear adults do this — or do they?)

There is something quite at stake here. Look at the men represented here — the fathers of these troubled boys. These children need intensive care — much attention, much LOVE, much discipline ~~or~~ they will be lost, and this will invalidate the work of Yahweh in our midst. If we lose these particular boys, the church (and Messiah) will be put to shame.