

Commandments for Fathers

Be sure, fathers, that you don't go into Yom Kippur not judging yourselves according to the commandment from the Holy Spirit in Eph 6:4, and again in Col 3:21.

Fathers, do not provoke¹ your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline² and instruction of the Lord. (Eph 6:4)

Fathers, do not provoke³ your children, lest they become discouraged.⁴ (Col 3:21)

Husbands, listen to your wives when they may have the spiritual intuition you need, as your little helper, by your side. Do not be a tyrant, cruel and oppressive. You know what a tyrant is? One who exercises his authority in an oppressive way, as a cruel master.

Oppressive means overbearing, weighing heavily on the mind, hard to bear up under, hard for the wife and child to respect, causing physical or mental distress or abuse.

Oppress means to keep down by the unjust use of power or authority; to subdue.

Provoke in Col 3:21 and Eph 6:4 is something that causes resentment, irritation, incitement. It stirs up hostility or anger. It causes hurt, stirs up negative thoughts, actions, or feelings. It's annoying, vexing.

Eph 6:4 — “Do not provoke your children to wrath, but *do this...*” It's a commandment. There are two commandments here for fathers. Your sins pile high if you are not confessing and forsaking your disobedience to these commandments (Pr 28:13; Jms 5:19-20). Without doing so, there is absolutely no entry into the Kingdom.

¹ #3949 — to rouse to wrath, provoke, exasperate.

² #3809 — the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment); it also includes the training and care of the body.

³ #2042 — to stir up, excite, stimulate, provoke.

⁴ #120 — to be disheartened, dispirited, broken in spirit.

Gen 18:19 — If you are the seed of Abraham, you are commanded to command your children and household in the WAY, the WAY, the WAY, to keep the WAY of Yahweh (Pr 22:6).

Fathers,

do not #3361 — *Never! God forbid! Absolutely not!*

provoke #3949 — *Enrage, incite, exasperate*

your #5216 — *Your very own*

children #4043 — *Precious child, produced from your own body*

Never would a father exasperate his own son or daughter, to enrage his own flesh-and-blood child, to hold him in repression⁵ by suppression⁶ until he goes into regression.⁷

Children must be handled with the wisdom from our Father in heaven as the gift of His Holy Spirit. He is the One you dedicated your child to, so to be properly cared for (Pr 22:5) they need firm discipline administered in love. Don't alienate them by provoking them, or nagging them, or deriding them. This causes mental abuse, causing moral decay, and is destroying their self-respect, so that they lose heart.

The purpose of discipline is to raise them up in the way they should go, which they will do if handled right by parents who do not exasperate or provoke them to the state of uselessness or worthlessness and discouragement.

Parenting is not supposed to be easy. That's why you should not get married if you don't want the task of raising your children up, for it takes a lot of patience to raise them up in love (Gal 5:22), in a manner worthy of Messiah. But frustration develops when a father has more important things to do, and the child irritates him to the point of frustration.

⁵ Repress — to suppress a thought, feeling, or desire so that it becomes or remains unconscious.

⁶ Suppress — to forcibly prevent from being expressed.

⁷ Regress — to return mentally to a former stage of life.

This teaching is vital to children's development and to their understanding of what Yahshua is like. As Eph 5:29 says it, a child is a parent's own flesh and blood, which he would care for just as Messiah cares for the edah, as a husband also cares for the wife who is one with him.

Eph 6:4 — "Bring them up..." *Bring* means *with* you, not alienated from you. It takes your nurturing and help for your child to flourish (Eph 5:29). Children do not exist for parents, but parents exist for children, to help them come into the Savior's arms in the Body of Messiah.

It takes training, which is the shaping of the will through discipline and admonition, and the shaping of the mind through teaching. But it's all done in love, and not by cramming it down their throats, more than they can chew at one time.

Wisdom comes by asking, but first comes 1 Jn 3:22 — keeping His commandments and doing what is pleasing in His sight. You can ask for wisdom and expect to receive, if your sins are not piling up as high as heaven because of exasperating and provoking your child and not loving your wife (1 Pet 3:7). These are truly "cardinal" sins. *Cardinal* means *fundamental* — something that other things hinge or depend on. It's a fundamental, principal, or chief sin. A cardinal sin is one with which you cannot continue on in fellowship with our Master (1 Jn 1:6-7; 5:16-17). Unless someone like the one in Jms 5:19-20 comes and you are able to repent, a multitude of sins will pile up.

Heb 10:26 — So now we know and are without excuse (Mt 6:13).

It does not take long to embitter your child and discourage him with long-winded reproof sessions. Proverbs instructs fathers that it takes the rod and reproof (Pr 29:15), just as our Father disciplines us (Pr 3:11-12; Rev 3:19). The rod and reproof give wisdom — if the reproof does not wear them out. If the father does not have wisdom to not rebuke or reprove them too long, they quit listening after a while, and you lose them forever.

Pr 29:17 — They need to be *corrected*, but not *exasperated* by your long-winded ordeals. Your child will give no delight to your soul if you make him despise you.

DO NOT EXASPERATE YOUR CHILD!!! DO NOT!!!

It is a *commandment* to fathers (Jn 14:15,21,24).

DO NOT!!! DO NOT!!!

They need training and instruction, but not long-winded sermons which you may call exhortations.

If you look at it right, Mt 21:43 and the restoration of all things hinges on the commandments to fathers (Gen 18:19; Eph 6:4; Col 3:21). The downfall of any nation depends on fathers — especially Israel.