

I. **The Call of a Father (Ephesians 6:4)**

- A. A father is to raise his children to the **glory of God** and the **benefit of his children**. He does not direct his children according to his personal agendas or selfish ambitions.
- B. A father is to keep from **provoking** his children to **anger** by not having a home too loose in guidelines and guardrails, which builds a child-centered home resulting in children being angry when they cannot get their way. He is also to keep from provoking his children to anger by not having a home too restrictive with guidelines and guardrails, which builds a mean-spirited home resulting in children responding in anger to the meanness in the home.
- C. A father is to **discipline** and **correct** his children when they do wrong and show them why and how they must do things God's way.
- D. A father is to **instruct** his children in what to do and why they do it according to God's agenda.

II. **The Consideration of Children to their Father (Ephesians 6:1-3)**

- A. Children should seek to **obey** and **respect** their father when they are with him, as well as when they are away from him (Ephesians 6:1-3, Proverbs 23:15-26).
- B. Children should seek to speak **kindly to** and **well of** their father, whether he is critical or complimentary of them. Children should seek to do this whether their father is still **present** or has **passed** (Romans 12:14, Proverbs 20:20, 1 Peter 3:8-9).
- C. Children should **confess** and **repent** of all **bitterness** and **grudges** toward their father and seek to live in **harmony** with him, whether he is a trouble-maker or a truth-keeper. If their father has passed, children should confess and repent to God and accept what He has allowed (Proverbs 28:13-14, Romans 12:14-21).
- D. Children should seek to thank **God** for using their father to bring them into this world, whether their father kept them or abandoned them, knowing that God will use their experiences with their father to make them **better not bitter** if they embrace God accordingly (1 Thessalonians 5:18, Romans 5:1-5).