

# Kindness with Your Kids

## Colossians 3:18-21; Ephesians 6:4

Vs. 12—**clothe yourselves in kindness**, among other things

Vs. 18—Paul jumps into **instructions on family life**

Mercy, kindness, gentleness, patience and love are part of marriage and family (vs. 12-14)

### What?

**Dads who instruct with God's kindness have children who avoid spiritual blindness**

The father's responsibility is to manage the household

Children will only be successful in obeying if fathers make it easy for them to obey

Fathers "put off" the old ways—

Ephesians lists **bitterness, wrath and anger**; verse 5 lists **covetousness**

The **harshness of the old nature** directed at children, or **neglect due to covetous pursuits**, provokes children

Ephesians specifies their response as angry frustration or exasperation; vs. 21 says that this will cause them to lose will

This means a child **loses the willingness to follow Christ**

Fathers "put on" the new

3:12 lists **compassion, kindness and patience**

*Ephesians 6:4, ESV—Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord*

Fathers are to **nurture (bring up) their children**

"**Discipline**" refers to the total overall training of a child with words and example, including Christian disciplines

"**Instruction**" refers to spoken teaching and warning

The picture is a lifestyle of **imparting wisdom to our children in the everyday events of life**

Connection with Jesus—

*Mark 10:13-16, ESV—And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant... And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them*

Nurturing fathers hug their children and bless them

**The Big Question—What about my unbelieving children?**

We're training our children to be their own persons

Some children may **reject faith in Jesus, but return later**

The way here is to **not despair, or nag and lecture**

It means **prayer and continual mentoring**

### So What?

A father who **seeks his heavenly Father** is going to be a successful parent

**Recognize the difference between childish irresponsibility and disobedience**

**Punishment must be proportional to disobedience**

**Never, never, never punish in anger**

**Insist on structured family time (meals, devotions)**

Search for **all the references to "my son"** in Proverbs

The last word—

*Deuteronomy 6:6-7, ESV—And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise*

### Now What?

Draw near to your heavenly Father first

Plan intentional family time to train children