

COLLISION

Steering Clear of Collisions in Parenting:
Parents & Children

Ephesians 6:1-4

10.15.17

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When we operate within the parameters of God, we can steer clear of relational collisions.

Children's Responsibility:

Ephesians 6:1-3, "1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 'Honor your father and mother' – which is the first commandment with a promise – 3 'so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.'" (NIV)

■ Children are to obey their parents (Outward Actions).

Even if they do not like it, if what parents are asking is in line with Scripture, children are to do it.

■ Children are to honor their parents (Inward Attitude).

Parents must discern the attitude behind the action.

When children obey and honor their parents, it is not only right, it benefits them with a better and longer life.

Colossians 3:20, "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord." (NIV)

Parent's Responsibility:

Ephesians 6:4, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children..." (NIV)

■ Wrong Way: Do not exasperate my children.

Colossians 3:21, "Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged." (NIV)

Don't discourage them. Encourage them.

Praise is about what I achieve.

Encouragement is about who I am.

Ephesians 6:4, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." (NIV)

■ Right Way: Do equip my children.

○ Bring them up

Bringing who they are up and out of them is a process.

○ Train them (Practical / Skills)

This includes discipline.

"Boundaries with kids isn't about 'making' your child do anything....It is much more about structuring your child's existence so that he experiences the consequences of his behavior, thus leading him to be more responsible..." – Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend in *Boundaries with Kids*

○ Instruct them (Verbal / Scripture)

Scripture shapes hearts.

Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (NIV)

The goal of parenting is not controlling their behavior; it is shepherding their heart.

"A change in behavior that does not stem from a change in the heart is not commendable; it is condemnable." – Ted Tripp in *Shepherding a Child's Heart*

I must give my children Jesus.

Psalms 78:5-7, "5 He...established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, 6 so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. 7 Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands." (NIV)

It is the parents' job to pass the faith onto the next generation so our children can trust in God.

I will commit to parenting God's way.