



FATHERS Ephesians 6:1-4

No. 3474

Stuart Briscoe

Sociologists tell us that the “father/child relationship” is the weak link of the family. Whether or not this is true, Scripture has many helpful things to say about fathers, and when taken seriously, they lead to effective and blessed fatherhood.

I. Fathers from a Sociological Perspective.

- A. The unique relationship of mother and child.
 - 1. Womb.
 - 2. Birth.
 - 3. Nurture.
- B. The unique relationship of father and child.
 - 1. Father’s relative distance.
 - 2. The benefits of relative remoteness leading to respect.
 - 3. The dangers of emotional withdrawal.
 - 4. The advantages in the weaning process.
 - 5. The challenge of balancing home and occupation.

II. Fathers from a Scriptural Perspective.

- A. Fathers should be honored by their children. vv. 1-3; Colossians 3:20
 - Because:
 - 1. It is “right.”
 - 2. It holds promise.
 - 3. It pleases the Lord.
 - B. Fathers should avoid exasperating their children. v. 4; Colossians 3:21
 - By being:
 - 1. Inconsequential.
 - 2. Inconsiderate.
 - 3. Inconsistent.
 - 4. Inconspicuous.
 - C. Fathers should be involved in “bringing up” their children. See 5:29
 - 1. From dependence to interdependence.
 - 2. From self-centeredness to social maturity.
 - 3. From spiritual ignorance to spiritual competence. See Proverbs 22:6
 - D. Fathers should see that the children get “training and instruction.”
 - 1. Training.
 - 2. Instructing by example.
 - 3. Pointing to the Lord.
 - E. Fathers should be supported and encouraged by their wives. 5:21-33
 - 1. They both honor the Lord.
 - 2. They submit to each other.
 - 3. He loves her.
 - 4. She loves, reveres him.

III. Fathers from a Common Sense Perspective.

- A. It’s not easy being a father.
- B. Fathers aren’t perfect.
- C. So they should get all the help they can!