

## "Delinquent Dads"

**TEXT: Ephesians 6:4**

\*Our verse this morning instructs fathers to do three things in regard to their children.

1) "provoke not your children to wrath"

-The child who is constantly upset disturbed, angered, and frustrated will seek love and comfort outside the family.

-This evidenced by young girls running away and becoming prostitutes and finding love and comfort from a big city pimp, who is awaiting at the gate of the city as they come off the buses.

-This evidenced by so many of our young people joining religious cults and making what happen in Ghana with Jim Jones a reality.

-We hear story after story how young people have been brainwashed by a religious cult.

-All because the young person could not find love and comfort at home.

-Other avenue our young people seek love and comfort:

-new revolutionaries or what we use to call hippies or anti-establishment.

-new morality crowd - anything goes when it comes to sex.

-drug crowd, dope heads.

//Fathers if you don't provide your children love and comfort, then devil and his devices will welcome them with open arms.

\*One extreme in a home is too much yelling, and ordering around, and the other is too much petting and mildness.

\*The Lord whips (negative) those whom He loves (positive).

\*Too much whipping produces a rebel or a bum, and too much loving produces a criminal or a leech.

\*Our passage instructs our fathers in regards to their children -

-number 2 - to "bring them up in the nurture (and number 3) and admonition of the Lord".

\*You nurture a child with discipline and punishment.

-Just like our heavenly Father disciplines and punishes us when we get out hand because He loves us.

-So, an earthly father is to discipline and punish his children because he loves them.

-It is a sign of son ship, that show that child belongs to you and to you alone.

-Just like those <sup>those who</sup> the Lord corrects belong to Him.

\*You admonish a child with words and instructions, just as the Lord instructs when He scourgeth and rebukes us.

-The heavenly nurturing and admonishing is described in Hebrews 12:4-8 (READ).

\*Unfortunately, what is happening all over America today, not only in the homes of the unsaved but most shockingly in the homes of the saved.

-Dads are delinquent in their duty of bringing up their children *in the* nurture and admonition of the Lord.

-Often discipline is sporadic at best

-and when given it is given improperly in the wrong spirit,

-provokes the child to wrath

-driving him from the home to seek acceptance somewhere else in the world.

\*The title of this morning's message is "Delinquent Dads".

\*We want to look at some Biblical examples of delinquent dads.

-Biblical dads who did not bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

-And see first <sup>hand</sup> the disastrous effects on their children.

**A. Aaron's sons Na-dab and A-bi-hu offered strange fire before the LORD - SEE LEV. 10:1-2.**

-In Exodus 30:9 - God gave Moses explicit instructions about offering no strange incense.

**"Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering; neither shall ye pour drink offering thereon."**

\*Aaron's son should have known better:

- Their father was high priest - knew Exodus 30:9
- Nadab & Abihu - trained priests, instructed in Levitical priesthood
- Training firsthand from their father, high priest.

\*So, we see Aaron's sons in direct rebellion and disobedience to God offer strange fire before the LORD and were destroyed in a dramatic fashion.

- I believe the LORD wanted to make a point.
- He takes what He says seriously.
- He means exactly what He says.

-"no strange fire" - He meant what he said.

- As Christians we love trying to find loopholes in the word of God so we can get out of doing something.
- Or we loving stretching the word of God to suit our needs.

\*Somehow Aaron failed his sons.

-He was a delinquent dad.

-Possibly, he noticed their rebellious nature at an early age and thought:

"Oh, they will grow out of it" or "Oh, they are only kids"

Or "I don't want to stunt or oppress their creative nature"

\*How many of us have heard that from friends and family who have children out of control who don't want to admit there is a problem.

\*Maybe Aaron's sons gave him some back talk when he told them to take the ashes of the offerings outside the camp to dispose of them.

-You know what a mean - "take out the garbage"

-Response - "Ya, when I get around to it"

\*The Bible says "...but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding" (Prov. 10:13).

\*Prov. 22:15 - "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."

-Children don't know what they want.

-One minute it one thing then the next minute it is another thing or what they see on TV.

Parents need to direct sometimes with discipline.

\*Obviously, the rod is for the fool and the disobedient son.

-You probably have heard the expression " I'll beat some sense into him." This is where it comes from the Bible.

\*If Aaron had taken the time with his boys, and disciplined them, punish them for their rebelliousness.

-Then they probably <sup>would not</sup> ~~won't~~ have offered strange fire before the Lord.

-Aaron could have prevented his boys from their tragic end with a some nurturing and admonition at early age.

-Maybe he tried to justify his delinquency by making excuses.

-For example: "I was to busy, making a living for the family."

-How many times have we heard that excuse being used for a delinquent dad or read it in the newspaper-

-As the son of the father is being handcuffed and arrested for murder, rape, robbery or some kind of heinous crime.

-Remember, Jeffrey Dommer had a father.

-Remember, Adolph Hitler had a father.

-Remember, Charlie Manson had a father.

*Recent cases  
teens in Attol-  
murdered an elderly  
man in FL.*

\*How about the recent case of the canning of boy in Singapore

-Boy's father wealthy businessman, perhaps to busy to train his son - another delinquent dad.

**B. Second delinquent dad we want to look at is Eli, the priest.**

-Remember, Eli was the priest who was ministering in the temple when Hannah went up to pray for a son.

-Hannah's son Samuel after he was born and weaned his mother turn him over to minister to the Lord, trained under Eli.

\*We are told about Eli sons:

-I Sam. 2:12 - "Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial, they knew not the LORD"

-Eli sons worshipped another god, a false god, the god of this world, Belial.

-They were sons of Belial or sons of the devil.

-I Sam. 2:13-17 - <sup>read</sup> <sup>V17</sup> "Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD."

-V17 tells us that Eli's sons perverted the office of priest, took best part of offering for self, as a result they turned the people off to the things of God, offering to God.

-Eli's attitude probably was "Oh!, they are just going through a stage, they will grow out of it" "You know boys will be boys"

-I Sam 2:22-26 - READ

-Eli makes an attempt to warn his sons of their immoral and wicked conduct.

-His weak effort reveals the state of his own soul.

-His sons offenses by the law demanded the penalty of death.

-Eli had no testimony before his sons just like Lot no testimony before his family.

\*I Sam 2:27-36 - READ

-Prophecy against Eli's house.

\*SEE V29 - "honourest thy sons above me to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?"

-Eli put his sons before the God!!!!

\*As a result:

-His sons would die

-His house would lose prominent position, another would be raised up to take over the office of priest. - V35.

\*I Sam 3:13 - LORD talks to Samuel and tells him that Eli's sons vile **"and he restrained them not"**

-I Sam 3:14 - tells us nothing could be done to stop God's judgment against Eli's house.

-I Sam 4:11 - Eli sons' slain taking ark of God to battle.

-People started worshipping "ark" itself to save them and protect them a form of idolatry instead.

-They were trusting in the form of religion to deliver them from the Philistines instead of trusting in the living God.

-I Sam 4:17-18 Eli's death - He hears of his sons' death & ark of God gone, he falls off his seat and breaks his neck.

\*All of this happen because Eli was a delinquent dad, did not bring his sons up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

-He went as far as put his sons interest before the Lord.

-He spared the rod and spoiled the child.

-The Bible tells us by not nurturing his sons with discipline and punishment, he actually hated his sons, even though he may of thought he loved them.

-Proverbs 13:24 - **"He that spareth his rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."**

\*The modern application to this verse is the young man who came out of the house bawling at the top of his lungs

-And when the neighbor kid asked him what was wrong,

-he said - "Mom's thrown away her psychology books and picked up daddy's belt."

\*In a modern home, where everything is run by switches except the children, it is considered an act of criminality to strike a child.

\*The Government calls it child abuse and the kids have an "800" number to call when they don't like it when mommy or daddy disciplines and punishes them.

-Or they <sup>call</sup> the ACLU for help to sue their parents in court.

\*SEE ILLUS # 1.

\*Proverbs 13:24 - "chasteneth him betimes"

-The word "betimes" is the old English for "early" or "early in the morning"

-In other words you have to nurture and admonish when he is still a child before it is too late.

\*Proverbs 19:18 - reinforces this principle -

"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy spare for crying"

\*Sometimes kids pick the worst time to act up -

-Like for example in the supermarket, especially when it is crowded.

-Little Johnny or little Mary decides they want a particular item - toy, candy, etc.

-They just got to have it or else.

-You say no, they start pouting and throwing a tantrum.

-They make you look mean in front of folks - worst parent in all the world.

-This is the best time to nurture and admonish his bottom.

-It may be hard.

-But remember you have to start in the playpen to keep them out of the penitentiary.

\*I love the new phrase they use to discipline kids:

-"time-out"

-Where the parent and child talk about what did wrong, review their action.

-Sometimes the talking needs some good old fashion reinforcement, AMEN!!!

\*SEE ILLUS. # 2

\*SEE ILLUS. # 3

\*Proverbs 23:14 - tells us

**"Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."**

\*Because Eli was a delinquent dad, delinquent in his duty of bringing up his sons in the nurture and admonition of the Lord,

-His sons souls are in hell, in torment.

\*You see it is better to hear your child's screaming from the spanking they receive now.

\*Then to hear their eternal screaming <sup>from</sup> ~~in~~ torment in the lake of fire.

\*What we want to notice in the two cases of delinquent dads:

-In Both cases:

- Father were priests, men of God
- Sons did not come from deprived background or environment.
- God made ample provision for priest and his family.
- So can't use the old-deprived childhood excuse.

\*Sometimes the man of God gets so busy tending to the need of the flocks, he forgets his own family.

\*He forget the family altar where most of the family problems could be resolved.

\*He gets so engrossed in his work and study, figures the problem will take care of itself. God will intervene, and deal with it His way.

\*A pastor's children can bring a ministry down through their poor testimony.

\*One of the qualifications of a pastor to have rule over his house.

\*Someday, Fathers - you will be held accountable to God:

-For what you did and didn't do in fulfilling your responsibility as outlined in Eph. 6:4 - READ.

\*Notice it specifically says "Fathers"



\*What is happening today in American not only in the homes of the unsaved but more shocking in Christian homes -

-Is although dad may be their physically, he is not spiritually.

-The dad is delinquent in his duty as spiritual head of his household.

\*That is not good, because God set up the husband as the head of the family just as Christ is head of the body. The church, the body of Christ.

\*A lot<sup>of</sup> the problems with the Christian family is delinquent dads.

\*Not only average Christian family.

\*But even worse, the man of God's<sup>s</sup> family.

-Pastor's families.

-Spousal/Family neglect is right up there with adultery for bringing a ministry down.

\*A family who prays together stays together.

\*Dads take time now with the kids -

- hug them when they need to be hugged.
- Spank them when they need to be spanked
- Give a good godly example to follow
- Teach them the things of the Lord

\*By taking time now:

-Someday it may keep you from spending time visiting them in prison.

-Someday it may keep you from visiting them at the cemetery or going to identify the body at the morgue.

\*Turn to 2 Cor. 5:10 - read

-Christian Dad shame on you if you stand before the judgment seat of Christ and have the Lord Jesus Christ point you out as a "delinquent dad"

\*Remember, your children are your testimony for the Lord long after you are gone.

\*What will your testimony be?

\*Let us stand:

-Pray - Plea for those to get saved and Christians to come to the altar.

home, where everything is run by switches except the children, it is considered an act of criminality to strike a child. A famous evangelist, however (who loved and appreciated his mother and father), said: "I was raised at the knee of a devoted mother and across the knee of a determined father." Another great preacher of the early 1900's said: "My father was a patriotic parent; he laid on the stripes and I saw the stars." Fred Brown said that there was a peach tree in his backyard which never bore any peaches till all the boys in the family were grown! ①

The proverb is a corollary of Hebrews 12:4-10. The word "betimes" is the Old English for "early" or "early in the morning": i.e., when he is still a child. ②

The ancients say: "Gold must be beaten and a boy needs blows." "My kid has been in the principal's office so many times, they ought to make him assistant principal." "Readin' and writin' and 'rithmetic taught to the tune of the hickory stick." "The difference between a thunder cloud and a spanked kid is the cloud pours with rain and the kid roars with pain." The Germans say: "Better the son should cry than the father."

Eli's boys were neglected (1Sam 1-3) and brought their father to the grave with grey hairs.

In the 1880's, a farmer who had put up with a rebellious son for twenty years finally decided to whip him. The boy had disgraced the family half a dozen times by being shipped from schools and universities for immoral conduct. The night before the "whippin'" was to be given, the old man prayed for nearly two hours. He wept over an open Bible and asked God to forgive him for not taking the boy into hand sooner. The next day after the noon meal, the farmer invited his son to go "walking" with him. They went about a mile from the house and stopped in a small thicket. The old man took out a jackknife and cut off a willow switch. It was about three-fourths of an inch in diameter. Then he turned to his rebellious son and said: "Take off your shirt, son. I'm gonna give you a whippin'." The boy stared in unbelief and then laughed. He started to walk away, but the old man blocked his path, and said again: "Take off your shirt, son. You've got a lickin' comin' and you're gonna git it." This time the boy grinned fiendishly and glared into the eyes of his father. "You ain't gonna whip me," he said. "You ain't man enough to do it!" The old man, trembling, reached out with a huge, hairy fist and grabbed his son by the shirt and pulled him up on his toes, and in a voice like a man

on the verge of insanity, he hissed: "Boy, last night upstairs on my knees, I asked God to forgive me for letting you get away with things like you have. God told me to give you a thrashing and I promised Him I'd give it to you. I don't care if only *one of us leaves these woods alive*. You gotta lickin' comin' and you're gonna GET IT!!" He shook the young rebel like a pup and roared: "GET OFF YER SHIRT!" The shirt came off; and when that beating was all over, those two – the father and the son – knelt and prayed together for the first time since the boy was 14 years old. When they got up, the boy, who had not cried or screamed during the entire operation, said: "Dad, you aren't gonna have any more trouble outta me as long as you live. I promise!" ↴

But you'd better start whipping them before they are big enough to whip you. The story above represents one son out of one hundred – the other ninety-nine are in jails and flophouses.

"The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul" (vs 25).

Readers of the Pulpit Commentary may be surprised to notice the constant references made to the "Book of Ecclesiasticus" (not "Ecclesiastes"), as the commentator seeks to explain the scriptures. Ecclesiasticus is not a Bible Book. It has nothing to do with "scriptures," and the AV translators recognized that fact. Ecclesiasticus, as Bel and the Dragon, belongs to the "Apocrypha," and whatever in it *resembles scripture* is the result of the Apostate Jewish scribes in Alexandria (in collaboration with Greek Gnostics) trying to imitate the God-breathed words of divine authority.

Ignoring the comments of "Ecclesiasticus," the Holy Spirit is teaching us that the righteous man in the Old Testament will get enough to eat – that is, until he is *satisfied* – and further, that he eats with soul-satisfaction in mind, not merely flesh-satisfaction (see Prov 10:3 and Ps 34:10). The passage quoted by the speaker of "Ecclesiasticus" – supposedly "Siracides" (a fine Jewish name if you ever heard of one!!) – says that one of the chief things in life is a "house to cover shame." (!) (?) What bearing this has on Proverbs 13:25, God only knows; this is one area that His Omniscience probably does not cover!

"But the belly of the wicked shall want" (vs 25). No explanation is necessary. Although Lazarus suffers want (Luke 16:20) and the bellies of the Pharisees hung below their girdles, the condition still applied as long as Israel remained a Theocracy. One cannot judge the verse by the conditions which prevailed after the division of the kingdom under Rehoboam or the final deportation of Zedekiah.

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