

# EPHESIANS 6:1-4

Spirit-filled living is unselfish living.

Husbands make the unselfish choice to sacrifice.

Wives make the unselfish choice to respect.

Children make the unselfish choice to obey.

Parents make the unselfish choice to nurture.

## Our Goal...

To understand simple truths by which I can evaluate parenting

To make a choice about my attitudes that will better my parenting this week

To make a choice about my actions that will better my parenting this week

## Simple principle #1:

**I Must Understand How God Wants My Children To Respond To Me.**

In their actions ... obedience

In their attitude ... honor

3 things we all need to teach our kids:

The discipline of obedience

The pleasure of doing the right thing

The promise of God's blessing for following Him

Quality living - "That it may go well with you."

Quantity living - "That you may live long."

Once we know how God wants our kids to act..

then we need to look at how He wants us to act.

## Simple Principle #2:

**I Must Understand How God Wants Me To Respond To My Children.**

Don't...provoke your children to wrath!

What "exasperates" children?

Unclear Boundaries

Inconsistent Discipline

Unbalanced Criticism

Unreasonable Demands

Unspoken Expectations

Undeserved or Unresolved Anger

Do...nurture your children.

What does it mean to "nurture?" Set up the right environment for growth

In order to nurture my children well I must see them the way that God sees them...

As a reward from God

As a stewardship from God

Three tools that we use in nurturing

1. The Bible
2. Our example
3. Our words

When someone is worried... speak kindly.  
When someone is angry... speak gently.  
When someone is deciding... speak wisely.  
When someone is hurting... speak encouragingly.  
And before you speak... listen.

## Paul talks about two specific directions our nurture will take...

### 1. Nurture Them In The Training Of The Lord

As a Christian Parent I am responsible to...

Love my children

Unconditionally

Personally

Practically

Discipline my children

1. Everyone needs to be disciplined.
2. Discipline is painful.
3. Discipline is for the benefit of the person who is being disciplined.
4. It teaches us that our short term discipline as parents prepares our kids for God's long term discipline.

Have compassion on my children

Lead my children to the Lord

How do I know when my child is ready?

How do I lead my child to become a Christian?

Pray for my children

Provide for my children

Provide for their needs

Provide for their future

Show them how to give

Encourage my children's spiritual growth

I have the primary responsibility for showing my child...

How to be a member of God's family

How to mature in their faith

How to minister to others

Hospitality: Opening your home in order to meet people's needs

Ministry: Going out from your home to meet people's needs

How to have a mission in the world

How to magnify God

### 2. Nurture Them In The Teaching Of The Lord

How do parents teach the Scriptures to their children?

Verbalize them

At meals

In your car

When going to sleep

When getting up in the morning

Memorize them

Symbolize them