

BIBLICAL PARENTING 101

Week 3: The Basics of Biblical Parenting (cont'd)

The Parent Who Provokes and Exasperates their Children (Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21)

While children are to be obedient to their parents, they are also to be respected as persons made in the image of God. Thus, they should never be manipulated, exploited, crushed or treated as less than they deserve. Furthermore, they need the right structures, routines, rules, etc. to flourish. Anger in children is provoked when a repeated ongoing pattern of mistreatment or neglect gradually builds up until a deep-seated despair, anger and resentment boils over into settled hostility and eventually rebellion if unchecked.

1) ***Troubled Marriage Parent.*** Lack of marital harmony. Husband and wife fight. Dad fails to love mom; mom fails to respect and honor dad. Usurping roles. See Heb. 12:15.

2) ***Proud Parent.*** See them themselves as the sole/ independent unerring authority of their children. Often blind to their own sin.

3) ***Controlling/ Angry Parent.*** Authoritarian. See James 1:19; 3:17; Prov. 22:24-25.

4) ***Over-reacting Parent.*** Overreacts harshly in response to sin or even normal childish (naïve) behavior. Scolds children instead of speaking calmly, naturally. See Matt. 18:15.

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- 5) **Legalistic Parent.** Creates too many rules or unreasonable rules that a child could never expect to maintain (Matt. 15:8-9; 1 Cor. 13:11). Too restrictive of children's freedom (Luke 12:48; James 3:17).

- 6) **Over-protective Parent.** Afraid to let them grow and experience the world. Too over-protective, micro-manage everything they do. Don't let them fail. Afraid they will get into too much trouble.

- 7) **Perfectionist Parent.** Like a Pharisee (Matt. 23:4). Put demands on children they could never meet, sometimes in non-moral ways. Pressure to excel. Overly critical. Always finding fault (Prov. 19:11).

- 8) **Unloving Parent.** Cold, aloof, apathetic OR outright cruel and unkind. Make children feel unwanted. Physically present but emotional absent. No affection.

- 9) **Stingy Parent.** Lack of generosity. Never let their child do things they want. Too restrictive. Stingy with gifts, money. No special things done for the child.