House Rules #8 Parenting in the Balance Ephesians 6:4

**Intro**: I officiated a wedding last night. As prepared, Book of Common Prayer (1789)… older… Why Marriage?

*The union of husband and wife in heart, body and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another; and, when it is God’s will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the Lord.*

1. God is good and desires to bless us.
2. Life is hard and we need help.
3. Children need parents.

***t/s – Nurture*** of children is drawn from our text today.

**Ephesians 6:4**

Review: When Jesus is Lord at Home… Impact Family Relationships!

 Household Code… Walking in a manner Worthy

 For His Purpose, Under His Authority, In His Power

 Wives; Husbands and Children

 Bible Truth about Family seldom popular, Always Good

***Begin Reading***

Note***: Pateres*** = pl. = parents (1), like brethren. both included Hb. 11

 ***Pateres*** = one who takes responsibility of fatherhood

 As opposed to *genitor* – biological father

 Step, grand, uncle, foster…

**READ**

**ILL** – Balance is beautiful. Athlete, Artist, Architect… Everyday life.

 Picture a potter… just the right pressure…

**Be Neither Over-bearing, Nor Inattentive.**

Exp – Consider the contrast of the two main commands.

***Do not Provoke your children to Anger*** (exasperate)

Warning against a kind of parenting that frustrates the child.

 Harsh and Unreasonable

 Critical and Sarcastic

 Inconsistent

 Finally, a child just stops trying to Please!

*Make it easy for your child to Obey.*

**t/s** – Is Paul saying back off, let child do as he pleases?

***Bring Them Up*** = gentle and consistent development…Nurture.

 “**Nursery**” = A Place for young children or Trees

 Bring them up so as to be planted in World.

**ILL** – Read Article about Michael Thonet (toe-net) technique

 For bending wood in order to make elegant chairs. (19th C)

 Thonet bentwood furniture became a global company

* ***Imagine bending a piece of wood***. (Not Break)

**App** – What is Your Tendency? Too much pressure…Too Little?

 Overbearing or Inattentive

**Provide Both Correction and Instruction**

**Exp** – Bringing Up a child requires both discipline and Instruction

 Nurture and admonition; training and instruction

 Two similar words…. Basic distinction might be:

1. ***Punishment with Purpose***…. Discipline.
2. ***Teaching***; forming a Christian worldview/values

Theological Foundations or Assumptions ---

***Your Child Needs Straightening Out.*** (Sinful inclinations of Heart)

 If left to her own way… wrong!

 **ILL** – Yard, Dog, House… Child….. Let them have own way.

***Your Child is not developing in a Vacuum***. (Sinful World)

 Many Voices calling for Attention… Deception and Danger.

 “I will allow my child to form her own opinions, convictions”

 Naïve Assumption about a Neutral world.

 ***There is a way that seems right, it end is Destruction!***

App – Home Schoolers All! (school & church are secondary support)

**You are Not Able; and, Not Alone.**

Exp – I like the first and the last words of this verse --- ***Fathers… Lord.***

* Overwhelming responsibility… who is sufficient?

What if I have No Christian Heritage?!?

(Over-bearing/Inattentive)

* Amazing Promise… ***Of the Lord***.

Lord Jesus will Work through you to Bring Up your Children.

The Lord’s nurture, discipline, instruction --- delivered through You!

**Inv/Concl**. –

Could the demands of parenting finally force you to your knees?!

***The Lord is Waiting for you to Ask Him for Help.***

GOSPEL – OU Student… No idea how to be a husband and father.