

A group of people are seated at a dining table in a restaurant, engaged in conversation and eating. The scene is dimly lit, with warm ambient lighting. In the foreground, a hand is visible holding a fork over a plate of food. A wine glass and a dark bottle are also on the table. The background shows other diners and the interior of the restaurant.

# Glorify the Creator

Ephesians 6:4

*“The Role of Parents is to  
Glorify the Creator”*

Eph. 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

*“The Role of Parents is to Glorify the Creator”*

Review

I. THE ROLE OF MARRIAGE IS TO GLORIFY THE CREATOR

II. THE ROLE OF THE HUSBAND IS TO GLORIFY THE CREATOR

III. THE ROLE OF THE WIFE IS TO GLORIFY THE CREATOR

## Introduction

The institution of the family is God's social plan for mankind, established in the Garden of Eden and is simply defined in the Scriptures as one man and one woman committing to each other in marriage, with the intent of procreation to add children under the nurture and training of their father and mother for the glory of God.

During the days of the Apostle Paul, the admonition in Eph. 6:4 would have been unheard of among Roman fathers. They had little concern about the feelings of their children.

**Patria potestas**, (Latin: “power of a father”), in Roman family law, power that the male head of a family exercised over his children and his more remote descendants in the male line, whatever their age, as well as over those brought into the family by adoption. This power meant originally not only that he had control over the persons of his children, amounting even to a right to inflict capital punishment, but that he alone had any rights in private law.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/patria-potestas>

A first century jurist recounts the story of a man in the early days of the Republic beating his wife to death because she had drunk some wine. His neighbors approved.

Valerius Maximus, *Memorable Deeds and Sayings*, 6.3.9-12

<http://www.womenintheancientworld.com/patriapotestas.htm>

#### IV. THE ROLE OF PARENTS IS TO GLORIFY THE CREATOR

Psa. 127:3 **Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD:** *and* the fruit of the womb *is his* reward.

- Since children are an heritage from the Lord, parents are accountable to be good stewards of them, for the glory of God.
- Before trying to raise godly children, parents must first become godly parents.

A photograph of a family of four walking away from the camera in a grassy field. The father is on the left, wearing a blue shirt and dark pants. The mother is on the right, wearing a white tank top and a dark skirt. They are holding hands with a young boy in a white shirt and dark pants. The background shows a sunset over a body of water.

It is not a parent's job to  
have Godly children.  
It's a parent's job  
to make sure  
their children  
have Godly  
parents.

A purple-tinted photograph of a meal, likely a family dinner, with various dishes and plates visible.

<https://sermonquotes.com/sermonquotes/10-it-is-not-a-parents-job.html>

A. Parents Must Consider their Methods –  
“...provoke not your children to wrath...”

Original Word: παροργίζω

Transliteration: parorgizó

Definition: I provoke to anger, exasperate.

*parorgízō* (from *pará*, "from close-beside" and *orgízō*, "become angry") – **properly, rouse someone to anger; to provoke in a way that "really pushes someone's buttons,"** i.e. to "*really get to them*" in an "up-close-and-personal" way (because so near, literally "close beside").

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3949.htm>

- Parents are not to provoke their children to resentment in anger of retaliation (to them or others.)

- Parental discipline should lead to respect, not resentment.

Col. 3:21 Fathers, **provoke not your children to anger**, lest they be **discouraged**.

Original Word: ἐρεθίζω

Transliteration: erethizó

Definition: I stir up, arouse to anger, provoke, irritate, incite.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2042.htm>

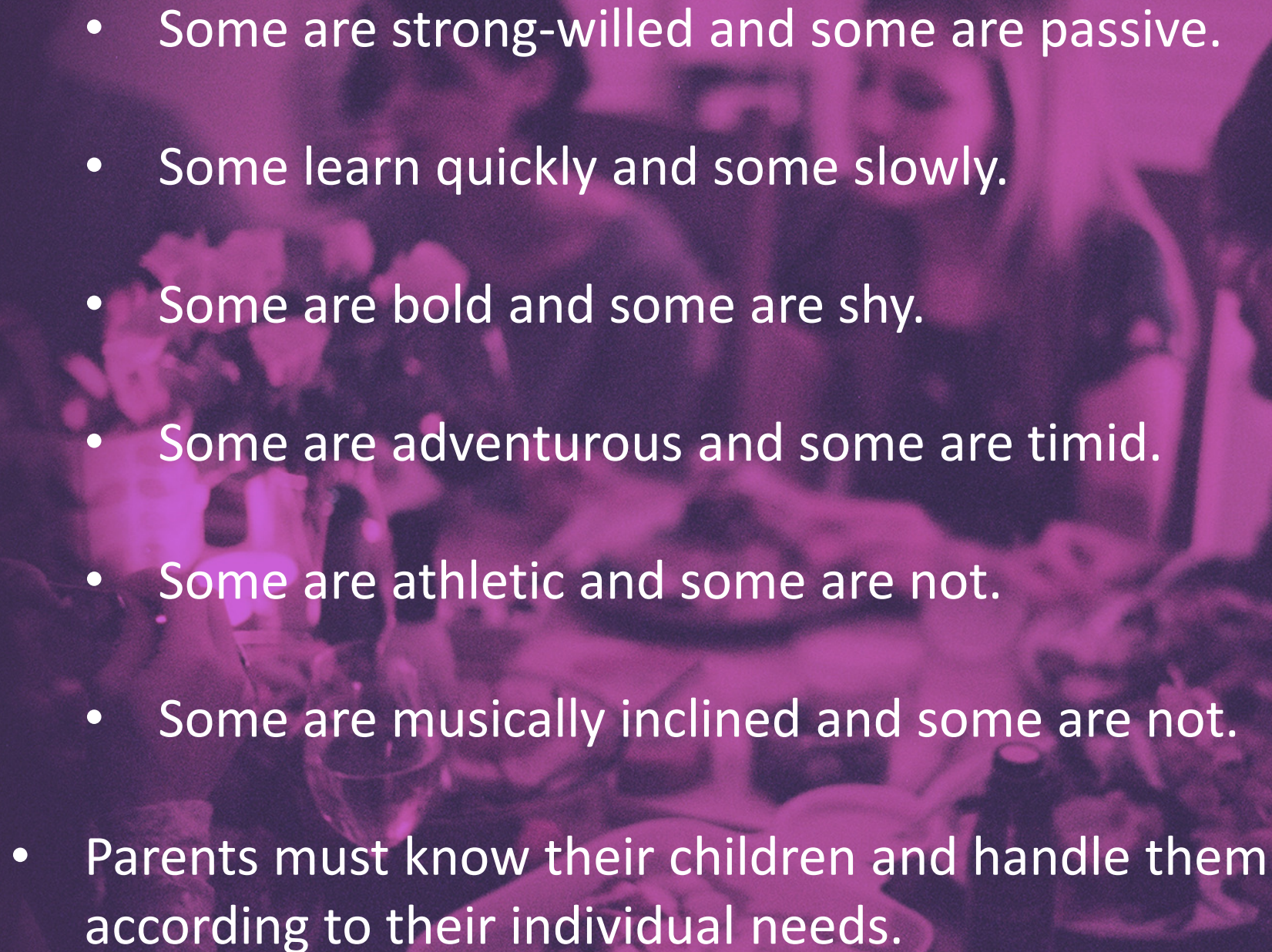
- Parents are not to provoke their children to exasperation, where the children are sensing there is no possibility in pleasing their parents.
- Children should sense that parental discipline originates in love, not hate.



# 1. The Development of Children

1 Cor. 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

- We cannot expect children to act like nor understand situations like an adult would.
- Children are unique individuals with individual characteristics:

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- A photograph of a group of people dining at a restaurant, overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter. The scene shows several people seated at a table with plates of food, glasses, and a bottle. The lighting is warm, and the overall atmosphere is social and relaxed.
- Some are strong-willed and some are passive.
  - Some learn quickly and some slowly.
  - Some are bold and some are shy.
  - Some are adventurous and some are timid.
  - Some are athletic and some are not.
  - Some are musically inclined and some are not.
  - Parents must know their children and handle them according to their individual needs.

- The key to spiritual parenting is found in Eph. 5:17-18:

Eph. 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but **understanding what the will of the Lord is.**

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; **but be filled with the Spirit;**

- Properly leading a child requires parents who are properly led by the Holy Spirit.

## 2. The Discipline of Children

- A spiritually disciplined parent is better equipped to discipline a child than an undisciplined parent who may abuse a child.
- The focus of discipline must be perceived by the child as loving correction.

A photograph of a family meal, including a man, a woman, and children, with a purple overlay. The text is overlaid on the image.

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

Prov. 23:13 **Withhold not correction from the child**: for *if* thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

Prov. 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but **a child left to himself** bringeth his mother to shame.

Prov. 13:24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but **he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes**.

Prov. 3:12 For **whom the LORD loveth he correcteth**; even as a father the son *in whom* he delighteth.

- Improper disciplining leads to frustrated confusion and discouragement of the child.

Col. 3:21 Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, **lest they be discouraged.**

Original Word: ἀθυμέω

Transliteration: athumeo

Definition: I lose heart, am despondent, am disheartened, (discouraged)

<http://biblehub.com/greek/120.htm>

- Good parenting includes opportunity for explanation from the child BEFORE disciplining – “...lest they be discouraged.”
- Children improperly loved and disciplined may become emotionally scarred for life.

“Emotional abuse is at the core of all major forms of abuse and neglect, is more damaging in its impact than acts of physical and sexual abuse alone, and requires special attention to disentangle it from physical and sexual acts of maltreatment.” ([The Emotionally Abused and Neglected Child: Identification, Assessment and Intervention: A Practice Handbook](https://theinvisiblescar.wordpress.com/what-is-emotional-child-abuse/)) <https://theinvisiblescar.wordpress.com/what-is-emotional-child-abuse/>

“Harvard University sociologists Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck developed a test (that proved to be 90% accurate) to determine whether or not five-and-six-year-olds would become delinquent. They discovered that the four primary factors necessary to prevent delinquency are:

1. The father’s firm, fair, and consistent discipline;
2. The mother’s supervision and companionship during the day;
3. The parent’s demonstrated affection for each other and for the children;
4. The family’s spending time together in activities where all participated.

*Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard Univ. Press, 1950. Pp. 257-71. The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, *Ephesians*. P. 316.

A photograph of a group of people dining at a restaurant, overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter. The scene shows several people seated around a table, with plates of food, glasses, and bottles visible. The lighting is warm, and the overall atmosphere is social and relaxed.

B. Parents Must Consider their Motives – “...but bring them up in the nurture and admonition...”

- The first part of verse 4 is what not to do, and the last part is positive about what parents ARE to do.
- Children are loaned to us from God, for us to “bring them up” for His glory!

## Conclusion

Deut. 11:19 And **ye shall teach them your children**, speaking of them **when thou sittest in thine house**, and **when thou walkest by the way**, **when thou liest down**, and **when thou risest up**.

20 And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates:

21 **That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children**, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.



Col. 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye.

14 And **above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.**

15 And **let the peace of God rule in your hearts**, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

16 **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing** one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace **in your hearts to the Lord.**

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.