

3:21 **Christian fathers must soberly obey Jesus Christ's command to treat their children wisely.**

1. Mothers assist, are assigned, and are examples (Pr 1:8; 6:20; II Tim 1:5; 3:15; I Sam 1:19-28).
2. Fathers! You must restore relationships to prepare for the Lord (Malachi 4:5-6; Luke 1:16-17).
3. When God uses one sentence for fathers, He warns about provoking and discouraging children.
4. It is easy for fathers, the family ruler, to be bullies, oppressors, irritators, and stumblingblocks.
5. Since the children were commanded to obey both parents in all things, here is the limitation!
6. What wisdom! If children obeyed as the previous verse, and fathers as here, utopia is possible!
7. Consider! Good fathers discourage their children from many things, regardless of their anger!
8. Therefore! Warning against provoking, anger, and discouragement must be of some good path.
9. In life's ordinary course, and especially in spiritual matters, let not the father discourage them!
10. What encouragement of children is Paul trying to protect – the way of the Lord Jesus Christ!
11. Children may be angered and discouraged by overbearing or neglectful fathers not being wise.
12. A parent can break a child's spirit by excessive criticism, nagging, or complaining, especially when done with little commendation or praise. A child will despair of ever pleasing their parent and lose motivation for doing anything right, for all actions are received the same way.
13. Children should not be able to truthfully say, "I can never do anything right in their opinion."
14. This verse is not for children to judge their fathers or justify disobedience. It is for fathers.
15. How can fathers provoke children to anger? Hypocrisy, poor treatment of their mother, neglect, inconsistency, overbearing tyranny, lack of affection and praise, selfishness, criticism, etc.
16. Are your children discouraged? Are you too picky, overbearing, selfish, neglectful, busy, etc.?
17. Choleric-melancholy mothers must be very careful; the husbands of such should warn them.
18. Fathers should pity their children, for the Lord assumes that they will do so (Psalm 103:13-14).
19. There is a tender aspect to a godly father, which was alluded to by Solomon (Proverbs 4:1-4).
20. Fathers, not mothers, are the glory of children; they crave his approval and affection (Pr 17:6).
21. Delicate treatment is proposed for servants, but how much greater is it with a son (Prov 29:21).
22. Ephesians 6:4 expanded it by adding training in the nurture and admonition of the Lord as well.
23. **Nurture.** Breeding, upbringing, training, and education in the wisdom and knowledge of God.
24. **Admonition.** To put (a person) in mind of duties; to counsel against wrong practices; to give authoritative or warning advice; to exhort, to warn.
25. Mothers are not spiritual trainers (I Cor 14:34-35)! You will deform children (and doctrine!).
26. Where are fathers like Abraham and Joshua, great spiritual leaders (Gen 18:19; Joshua 24:15)?
27. Where are fathers like Job (Job 1:4-5)? Here was a righteous man, whom God blessed greatly.
28. Where are fathers training a godly seed in the earth (De 6:1-9; Ps 78:1-8; Is 38:19; Joel 1:1-3)?
29. A father's duties include exhorting, comforting, and charging children wisely (I Thess 2:11).
30. Chastening should always be done in a spirit of loving care, with profit the goal (Heb 12:5-11).
31. Great fathers are leaders – serving out front (Gen 18:19; Deut 32:46-47; Josh 24:15; Mat 5:48).
32. Great fathers are pitiful – showing much mercy (Ps 103:13-14; Prov 28:16; James 2:13; 5:11).
33. Great fathers are tough – requiring godliness (I Sam 2:29-30; 3:11-14; Pr 19:18; Heb 12:5-11).
34. Great fathers are gentle – dealing tenderly (Numbers 11:12; Jeremiah 31:20; I Thess 2:7,11).
35. Great fathers are knowledgeable of their children and for them (Matt 6:8,32; Proverbs 25:2).
36. Great fathers are kind – wanting to please with good things (Luke 11:11-13; James 1:17).
37. Great fathers are loving – with tender affection (Gen 45:25-28; Prov 17:9; 18:24; Eccl 4:9-12).
38. Great fathers are wise – thinking of the future (Proverbs 13:22; 22:3; 27:12; Philippians 4:5).
39. Great fathers are spiritual – they love Christ (Deut 6:6-9; Ps 73:25-26; Col 3:17; II Tim 3:15).
40. Great fathers are teachers – they will be training (Ps 34:11; 44:1; 48:13; 71:18; 145:4; Pr 22:6).
41. Your children will never exceed you without a miracle. Big hypocrites make little hypocrites.
42. The book of Proverbs is mostly a godly father training his son in wisdom and righteousness.
43. The office and role of father is almost lost from the earth – we must hold and restore it boldly.
44. The goal of every father is to train and guide a godly seed to the glory of His name in the earth.

45. We are given these little sponges with blank slates for minds, and we fill them with His truth.
46. The most important person in the life of a child ought to be their father, not mother (Pr 17:6).
47. Yet we have a generation that knows their mothers did the majority of their love and training.
48. The idea of a mother being the spiritual leader in the home is ludicrous compared to Scripture.