

Mother's Day – 2010

# ***Courageous Parents in a Pluralistic Culture***

*Ephesians 6:4*

**Introduction:** Being a parent in today's pluralistic & postmodern culture requires a particular kind of courage. It's the courage to learn new things. Courageous parents work hard to discover their child's world. Then, they patiently live out and speak the truth in creative ways. This concept comes from Paul's command in Ephesians 6:4.

## **1. *NEGATIVE ASPECT TO THIS COMMAND – It is possible for parents to provoke their children to anger. Ephesians 6:4a***

- A. The command: "*Fathers do not provoke your children to anger.*" The original language also allows us to use the word, parents. "*Parents, don't provoke your children to anger.*"
- B. With that in mind, let me show you at least four ways that parents can provoke their kids to anger in this culture.

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- C. In one sense, parents will always move their kids to anger as they establish boundaries. This kind of anger comes from reactive parenting.

## **2. *POSITIVE ASPECT TO THE COMMAND – In each new generation, parents must engage in wise and insightful worldview instruction. Ephesians 6:4b***

- A. Definition of worldviews
- B. Questions: "Do we really need to tell our kids this stuff? Shouldn't we let them figure out all this stuff?"
- C. Back to Ephesians 6:4!
- D. The phrase *of the Lord* is a clear command toward worldview education.
- E. The command *bring them up* implies that parents must be active learners.
- F. The method of this teaching is described as discipline and instruction.

## **3. *A WORD TO PARENTS TODAY – This is not your parents' world!***

- A. Generations have always been convinced that the generation following is worse than the previous one.
- B. Researchers are sounding the alarm today.
- C. To be a parent in today's context requires intentionality.