

God's Way of Bringing Up Children

Ephesians 6:4

A. The verb is in the *active voice*. Greek has three voices: active, middle, and passive.

1. If the middle voice were used the passage would read, *Bring yourselves up*.
2. If the passive voice were used the passage would read, *Be brought up*.

B. The verb is in the *present tense*.

C. The verb is in the *imperative mood*.

D. Note what the clause says we are to do: *bring them up*.

1. Goal--not negative
2. Goal--not dependence
3. Goal--positive and spiritual
 - a. Matthew 28:19
 - b. Colossians 1:28
 - c. Hebrews 5:13

BRING UP IN THE "PAIDEIA" AND "NOUTHESIA" OF THE LORD.

This involves three things:

A. "*Paideia*" = instruction (Titus 2:12; Acts 7:22; II Tim. 3:16; Prov. 5:12).

1. What do we teach?
 - a. Teach doctrine (II Tim. 3:15-16).
 - b. Teach proper standards and values (Jer. 9:23-24).
 - c. Teach how to know God and have fellowship with Him (Ps. 27; Phil. 3).
 - d. Teach how to be good stewards of:
 - 1) Talents (Rom. 12:3-8).
 - 2) Treasures (I Tim. 6:17-18).
 - 3) Time (Eph. 5:16).
 - e. Teach them to love and serve others (Luke 10:25-39; Phil.2:3-11).
 - f. Teach them to make decisions and live biblically -- not on the basis of feelings (Ps. 119:105; Prov. 15:22, 16:3).

- g. Teach them the importance of discipline, integrity, honesty, dependability, and truthfulness (Christian character and conduct).
 - h. Teach them how to solve their problems biblically (I Cor. 10:13; Matt. 7:18).
 - i. Teach them to respect God-ordained authority (Rom. 13; Heb. 13; Eph. 6).
 - j. Teach them how to respond to hardship and mistreatment (Rom. 12).
 - k. Teach them how to be good husbands and wives and parents (Eph. 4-6; I Cor. 7:13; Prov. 31; I Pet. 3).
 - 1) How to be a good mate.
 - 2. How to choose a mate.
2. How do we do it?
- a. Deuteronomy 6:4-25
 - 1) *Personally experience the power of God's Word* (v. 4-6).
 - 2) *Persistently explain the precepts of God's Word* (v 7, 20-25).
 - a) Formal, structured
 - b) Informal, spontaneous.
 - 3) *Plainly exhibit the practicality of God's Word* (v 8-9)
 - a) Activities and attitudes
 - b) Private and public life
 - b. I Thessalonians 2:10-12; additional insights
 - 1) *Exhorting*-- calling to one's side to help.
 - 2) *Encouraging*--comforting
 - 3) *Expediting*-- imploring, urging, motivating.
 - 4) *Exhibiting*-- verse 10
- B. "NOUTHESIA" = counsel, admonition, warning (Titus 3:10; I COr. 10:11; Acts 20:31; Col. 3:16; Rom. 15:14).
- 1. *Implies the existence of a problem* (Col. 1:28; I Thess. 5:14).
 - a. Know what problems are.
 - b. Deal with them (Gal. 6:1).

2. *Involves isolating the problem by the use of appropriate questions.*

- a. What? (Eph. 4:29; James 4:11; 5:9).
- b. When? (Prov. 15:23; 25:11; 27:14).
- c. How? (Prov. 15:1; II Tim. 2:24, 25; Col. 4:6).
- d. Where? (Prov. 15:28; 29:20).
- e. To whom? (Matt. 18:15).
- f. How often? (Prov. 17:9; 10:19).
- g. Why? (Col. 3:8; Eph. 4:29).

3. Implies attempting to correct with a spirit of genuine compassion and *concern*.

- a. Acts 20:31
- b. I Corinthians 4:14
- c. Ephesians 4:15

C. "*Paideia*" = *discipline, training* (Heb. 12:8,11).

1. What kind of discipline?

- a. The kind of discipline God uses with His children (Heb. 12:5-12; Gen. 2, 3; I Sam. 2:3; I Cor. 11:30-32).
- b. The kind of discipline God prescribes in His Word (Prov. 13:24; 19:18; 22:6, 15; 23:13,14; 29:15).

2. How do we do it?

a. *Establishing rules and regulations*

- 1) For the good of our children (Deut. 5:29-33).
- 2) Based upon biblical principles (I Sam. 8:20; Ps. 119:105, 128).

b. *Explaining (discussing, clarifying)*

- 1) God's example (Gen. 2; Exod. 20; etc.).
- 2) Book of Proverbs.

c. *Enforcing*

- 1) Modeling (I Thess. 1:5-6; Phil. 4:9).
- 2) Training (Heb. 5:14; I Tim. 4:7).
- 3) Make obedience attractive -- *motivate* (I Thess. 2:11-12).
- 4) Administer discipline--chastisement when rules are broken (Heb. 12:5-12; Prov. 13:24).

3. Forms of corrective discipline: Be creative. God does not always use the same form (I Sam. 10:5; 11:4; Lam. 3:1; I Cor. 4:21. "Rod" is both figurative and literal).

- a. *Natural consequences* (Ps. 7:14-16; Luke 15:11-24).
- b. *Logical consequences* (II Thess. 3:10; Exod. 22:1; Deut. 31: 16-17).

1) Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15.

2) Used when child is deliberately defiant or disobedient.

- a) Consistently
- b) Corporately
- c) Immediately
- d) Sufficiently
- e) Intelligently--with instruction
- f) Prayerfully
- g) Lovingly (Prov. 13:25; Heb. 12:5-6).
- h) Under control (James 1:19-20).
- i) Conclusively