

**Clanking Chains: “Ektrephō”: Parents’ Accountability to God, Responsibilities to Children, & Approach to Discipline, Eph 6:4**

- 22) With this comes plenipotentiary authority that carries with it accountability to God and responsibilities toward the child.
- 23) Parents are obligated before God to provide logistics for their children. There is the mandate to procreate in Genesis 9:1. There are promises that guarantee one’s daily needs found in Matthew 6.
- 24) These issues, combined with the mandate to supply necessities for children, mean that God’s grace will provide if the parents are willing to take on the responsibilities associated with rearing children.
- 25) The mandate to the husband in this regard is found in Genesis 3:19, “In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread.” Some of the essential duties of the wife in managing household affairs are mentioned in Proverbs 31:10-31.
- 26) Failure to live up to these responsibilities is condemned by Paul in 1 Timothy 5:18, “If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”
- 27) Thus the mandate to “nourish up to maturity” requires that both parents become devoted and dedicated to providing their children’s needs both physically and spiritually.
- 28) The provision of logistics is initially designed to sustain the child until he can reach an age of accountability and give an objective hearing to the gospel.
- 29) During this period the parents are to train, instruct, chastise, and punish the child as a part of his orientation to principles of order, harmony, and establishment.
- 30) Parents are the authority figures. No matter how stupid parents may be they are geniuses compared to their children. A child is incapable of survival without them.
- 31) Parents must never kowtow to their child for any reason. They rule the roost, the father makes policies, both parents enforce them, and the father administers corporal punishment when necessary.
- 32) Resorting to corporal discipline is not violence. It only becomes so when the parent allows arrogant and emotional sins to motivate its use.
- 33) A parent cannot beat submission into his children. Submission is won by loving the child: adherence to righteous standards through just enforcement. Children must be instructed and led into the right course of action. Great flexibility must be observed and principles must be taught through repetition.
- 34) Corporal punishment is required when parents observe a rebellious mental attitude. But it must never be administered because the parent loses patience, becomes infuriated because his authority has been challenged, is caused embarrassment, or is fed up.
- 35) Corporal punishment must never be motivated by arrogance, power lust, or self-centeredness and never applied with such intensity that it amounts to cruelty.
- 36) Cruelty results when a parent’s sinful nature is out of control. The lust to receive submission from his child can become such an obsession that a parent loses sight of the fact he is dealing with a child.



- 37) He may resort to corporal discipline because the child misbehaved, made a mistake, or caused embarrassment. But corporal punishment is designed to correct open rebellion.
- 38) A father must learn to distinguish spizzerinktum, *faux pas*, and naïveté from rebellion. Otherwise, he will be spanking his child all day long.
- 39) Out-of-control fathers allow themselves to go way beyond the divine intent of corporal punishment and engage in cruelty which may include such motivations as vindictiveness, spitefulness, and power lust.
- 40) The administration of punishment may result not in correction but bitterness because its application was brutal, heartless, ruthless, merciless, vicious, and mean.
- 41) Proper rearing involves instruction, training, and repetition. Children will not become members of genteel society overnight but their ability to behave will develop swiftly if their parents are vigilant, consistent, and patient.
- 42) This is made possible by the filling of the Holy Spirit, loyalty to the system, and unconditional love. The Holy Spirit enables vigilance, loyalty to the system maintains consistency, and unconditional love provides patience.