

## **Point Man**

### Chapter 8

#### How to Raise Masculine Sons & Feminine Daughters

Ephesians 6:4 is our **compass** and **true North** that enables a father to give his children correct guidance toward finding their sexual identities...We live in a world of confusing and wrong sexual information. An Ephesians 6:4 father is the **compass** that boys read to find the correct path to masculinity and girls read to find the right road to femininity.

Let me shoot straight with you. If we will function as the loving heads of our homes, respect and love our wives, and follow the guidelines of Ephesians 6:4, our children will not grow up to be sexually confused. Homosexuals are not born they are made.

In every case I have seen they (sexually confused children) were raised [involving homosexuals who were raised in evangelical Christian homes], their fathers were either spiritually anorexic or bulimic. These children may have had the Scripture drilled into them at home and church, but somewhere along the line, their fathers did not give them the accurate bearings they desperately needed.

#### **Moral Landmark #1** - Fathers should raise their children with **fairness**

Life is not always fair, but fathers should not embitter their children by:

1. Overprotection
2. Favoritism
3. Discouragement
4. By forgetting that the child is growing up, has a right to have ideas of their own, and do not have to be an exact copy of their father
5. Neglect
6. Bitter/harsh words or physical cruelty

The idea behind the word exasperate is 'do not embitter'...This kind of anger in children springs from continual and habitual unfair treatment... Habitual unfair treatment over the years results in an accumulation of anger that eventually embitters children toward their fathers.

We can damage our young boys by overprotecting them and by creating fear that they may get hurt. Little boys who are constantly overprotected are in jeopardy of having their masculinity warped. Obviously, we are to teach them to use good judgement. But we are not to squelch their aggressiveness. They will survive the scars and broken bones of boyhood. But they cannot survive being feminized through the perpetual fear of getting hurt. God made boys to be aggressive. We are to accept it and channel it.

Discouragement is one of the easiest ways to embitter a child without realizing what you're doing. It can easily become a habit we are unaware of...a deadly habit.

By forgetting that the child is growing up, has a right to have ideas of their own, and need not be an exact copy of their father.

Parents work very hard and they're acquiring things that they feel are important for their children. And yet vastly more important things are happening. *They're not spending quality time with their children*, at least not very much. **Do not get distracted and focus on the wrong things** (things this world can offer and use your TIME wisely).

### **Moral Landmark #2** - Fathers should raise their children with **tenderness**

1. Listen to them and respect their feelings
2. If you have been wrong or too harsh, be man enough to admit your mistake and ask for forgiveness
3. Listen to your wife's input (she can help you be tender)
4. Be "hands-on and engaged" and also be encouraging

The word translated in Ephesians 6:4 as 'bring them up' means 'to nourish, to provide for with tender care.' Masculine men are tender men.

Children can quickly become embittered toward fathers when **tenderness** is missing. Just exactly what is tenderness? It's a sensitivity toward others...**Tenderness** has different facets like a carefully cut diamond. If you look at **tenderness** from one angle, you'll see sympathy. If you look from another, you'll notice compassion. **Tenderness** also carries the ideas of responsiveness, warmth, and kindness.

They need dads who are interested in the stuff of their lives. *They need dads who will listen before they spank.* They need dads who will give them plenty of hugs and kisses...Children need dads who are kind/tender.

It is especially important that fathers be tender toward their daughters. A man who does not convey acceptance, warmth, tenderness, and compassion can easily embitter his children deeply.

### **Moral Landmark #3** - Fathers should raise their children with **firmness**

There is a balance between firmness and tenderness that good fathers constantly try to achieve. Most of us tend to err on one side or the other. But we must strive to maintain that balance for the sake of our children.

Boys must be raised in the same way. They must experience that same warmth, tenderness, and affection. When a boy is embittered by a father without a gentle and understanding side, the effects can be devastating. When a boy has a father who has modeled tenderness, it will be much easier for that boy to give the same tenderness and understanding to his children when he becomes a father.

#### 5 guidelines to raise children as a “firm Father”:

1. Take the lead
2. Establish boundaries
3. Clear expectations/consequences
4. Be consistent
5. Balanced

### **Moral Landmark #4** - Fathers should raise their children **in Christ**

Ephesians 6:4 says children are to be raised in the discipline and admonition of the Lord... [**Discipline**] refers primarily to *what is done to the child*... [**Admonition**] refers primarily to *what is said to the child*. The **purpose** of this discipline and admonition is to *build character in our child(ren)*. Children need to know what the limitations are. They need fathers who love them enough to set boundaries and keep them.

Do you take the lead in matters of discipline in the home, or do you leave it to your wife? According to Ephesians 6:4, it is clearly your responsibility. That doesn't mean, of course, that your wife doesn't discipline the children. But it does mean you are the one that **sets the standards**, **enforces the standards**, **models the standards**, and **appropriately disciplines when the standards are violated**.

The phrase '...of the Lord' refers to the quality of training in the home. This is what ensures quality control... His [the father's] **primary purpose is to train the child, not abuse the child**. The fact that he is under the influence of this quality control – rather than out of control - is in and of itself an example to his children of the way they are to handle their children when they become parents.

Bible references:

Ephesians 6:4, Hebrews 12:9-11