



MESSAGE/SERIES:

Father's Day- "Provoke"

DATE: June 16, 2019

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK: OPENING SCRIPTURE:

Colossians 3:19-24, 2 Corinthians 9:2, Ezekiel 18:20, Psalms 127:3-5, Proverbs 27:17, Ephesians 5:25-29, Ephesians 6:1-4

[Psalm 127:3-5]

*"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.⁴ Like **arrows** in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. ⁵ Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate."*

Children are like arrows the psalmist says... They are currently in the quiver of your home (a safe place/ a place of preparation)...but one day they will launch from your home and fly...

When we think about arrows in the quiver of a warrior we think about some basic things that a Father does in preparing His children for life...

God has given Father's responsibility to **prepare His Son's to be men...**

- *to be godly loving husbands*
- *to be godly loving fathers*

- *to be godly loving servants in the church*
- *to be godly loving examples in the community in which we live...*

God has given Father's responsibility to **prepare your daughters...**

- *by being a reflection of Christ-like-love towards your daughter's mother/your beautiful wife... Loving your wife as Christ loved the Church*
- *by showing your daughter personally what a gentle looks like in how you treat her as a lady...*
- *By showing her what a provider looks like in making sure all of the needs of the home are met...*
- *By showing her what a spiritual leader of the household looks like... Discipling your family to know Jesus...*
- *If you father don't teach her that spiritual leadership is important the man she that leads her in her marriage may lead her away from your God...*

If God has blessed you with Children today He has blessed you with Arrows that are meant to be instruments of war...

[Colossians 3:19-24]

¹⁹ *Husbands, **love your wives**, and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹ **Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.** ²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ **Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,** ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Col 3:19–24.

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BACKGROUND:

(3:21) Most ancient fathers and educators beat their children as a matter of course; like a minority of ancient moralists, Paul advocates a more gentle approach to child rearing.

(3:22–25) Ancient law viewed slaves as being property as well as people, and their obedience was expected. Many, however, considered slaves generally lazy (an attitude that is easy to understand, since slaves rarely shared the profit of their own labors). The admonition that slaves devote their work to the Lord relativizes the master's authority (cf. 4:1); “not as men pleasers” (KJV) was also common advice in ancient Jewish ethics.

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), Col 3:21–25.

OUTLINE:

I. TO PROVOKE TO DISCOURAGEMENT (Colossians 3:21)

“Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Col 3:21.

Facts are that- *Every child has a hard wired desire to please their father even if the father is a wicked or hateful man...*

We as Christians cannot be Fraudian in our counsel. People must own their own responses. (Ezekial 19:20)

This kind of provoking:

- *Produces Fearful Children*
- *Produces Angry Children*
- *Produces Doubtful children*

V21 “Lest the become discouraged”

- Discouragement= *A broken spirit, to make resentful, to make bitter*
 - *I am not able to please my father*
 - *He will never love me*
 - *I guess I will always be a failure...*
 - *I might as well just do it...*

=Fathers are called to model a life before their children that recognizes **Christ as their strength** and **obedience as a gift to Our God** because of the Grace we have received.

II. TO PROVOKE TO LOVE (Col. 3:19, Eph. 5:25-26, 6:4)

- Colossians 3:19- Love your wife and do not be harsh *or as the greek would indicate DON'T BE bitter with your wife...*
- Ephesians 5:25-26- Let you love for your wife be of the quality of how Christ loves us... *a self sacrificing love for her...*

=BY Loving your wife and your children's mother we illustrate the love of Christ...

- If we love our children enough we won't provoke them in a negative sense ...but we will cause or excite our children to know the Lord *and His word as a necessity*

=Fathers How are we doing on provoking love in our Children in these ways?

III. To PROVOKE TO GOOD WORKS (2 Corinthians 9:2)

*“For I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your **zeal has stirred up** most of them.”*

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 2 Co 9:2.

- **The Zeal** *(the great enthusiasm) of the people at Achaia had stirred up or provoked many others in the faith.*

Background 2 Corinthians 9:2: *Paul was collecting an offering for the Christians in Jerusalem that were in need and these mature and growing believers fueled and a great work and a great offering unto the Lord...*

OTHER STUDY HELPS:

The word here translated “Provoke” in the ESV comes from the Greek word (*erethizo*) (ἐρεθίζω, 2042), “to excite, stir up, provoke,” is used (a) in a good sense in 2 Cor. 9:2, kjv, “hath provoked,” rv, “hath stirred up;” (b) in an evil sense in Col. 3:21, “provoke.” or **also a marker of causation** (in a good sense)

W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), 496.

Current statistics:

Here are some recent statistics from www.mensdiscipleshipnetwork.com...

- Approximately **1 in 3 US children** are raised in homes where their biological father is absent.
- **24 million children** live absent their biological father
- **40% of children** in father-absent homes have not seen their father at all in the past year
- **11 days** (accumulative hours) is the average total time that a dad talks with his child in a lifetime
- **12 years** (accumulative hours) is the total time a father works in a lifetime
- **37 seconds** is the average daily time a father spends one on one with a preschooler

Do you think there is a problem with fatherlessness?

But consider what impact a godly father has on his home...

- When a teenager is the first to connect to a church; 3.5% of the families follow.
- When a wife/mom is the first to connect to a church; 22% of the families follow.
- But when a **man (husband/father)** is the first to connect to a church; 93% of the families follow.

What about marriages...How does a godly Father impact marriages?

- Christian marriages end in **divorce** approximately 45% of the time.

- But when a man prays with his wife daily only 1 out of 1,152 marriages end in divorce; that's less than 0.1%.

-----Message from Pastor Michael-----

Church,

There is a call that goes out to Fathers to lead in the home. Children need Spiritual guidance and Fathers are commissioned of God for this task. It is time that Fathers take the steps provoke our children to Love and Goodworks! If you have been provoking your children to discouragement and anger today is the day to seize the mandate to provoke your children to a growing relationship with the Lord...If today was the day of the launching of that Arrow how would it land? Would it make a great impact for the kingdom of God or would it fall harmlessly to the ground? Make your arrows count! Call your children to a greater understanding of where you are with God and then lead them to the hope that is in Jesus. You can't take anything with you but your family!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Michael

MY PERSONAL STUDY NOTES:
