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A father is also his team's cheerleader. If the children cannot find refuge and encouragement in the shelter of the home, they will turn to the street—and why are we surprised? Once, at the ballpark, a six-year-old boy was having a hard time pitching. His mother and father were scoldling him from the bleachers and he was crying. During time out, his mother turned to the rest of us in the bleachers and said, "I guess I am a terrible parent." I responded to her, "You are sure are." I am the cheerleader for my team and I don't want to do anything that would rob them of their cour-

A father is a disciplinarian who should bring the child up in the chastening of the Lord. Admonition and chastening must be applied with balance. I have been involved with teaching three children to ride a bicycle. The key factor is balance, and so it is with the father. Yes, we need words, but we also need discipline. We will fail with just words, as surely as we would if we just used discipline. The warning of Ephesians 6:4 is not to excessperate to the point of discouragement.

A father is also a teacher. Ephesians 6:4 commands, "Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." The word "admonition" carries the idea of instruction, warning, to train by discipline, to train by act. As an adviser and teacher, the father is trying to mold the will of the child. The writer of Proverbs says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." The father is a teacher who is continually learning from his mistakes and from the mistakes of others? A father must study his children continually, for by wisdom, knowledge, and instructio-

To me, a father is in many ways like a coach. He truly wants his team to win and so, as a coach, he is responsible not to break the spirit of each child, but train them to know how to become a victor. Ephesians 6:4 warns the father against despairing the child, lest he becomes discouraged. A child, in many ways, is like a young tender tree. It needs cords or restraint so that the tree will grow straight, but if those cords are made too tight or left on too long they will only scar the precious work we are trying to achieve. Truly, as the twigs bends, so grows the tree.

You must have the wisdom to solve the gigantic problems in the mind of an 8-year-old who thinks you are superhuman. You must also have the patience to rap for 20 minutes with a 15-year-old about why he needs to wear a coat in 10 degree weather, all of which must be done with great care and temperament. A father must realize that the current problem is not the major issue, but simply a mile-marker on the road to eternity.



## More On Fathers

By Gerry Sandusky

The Psalmist said, "As arrows in the hand of a mighty man, so are children of thy youth" (Psalm 127:4). This verse clearly illustrates the role of a father to his children. Children can be hurried in one direction or another by the aim of their parents. It takes a lot of effort to hunt a young, tender, precious soul through a world of obstacles and distractions, so that they will reach the goal of eternity. It will take all the energy and wisdom you can muster, plus many hours of prayer to get this great work done.

Before us as an example of what this little imp likes. A father is a provider, a protector, and one who upholds that which is in his care. As a father, there are many roles which you must fill. A phrase you will hear often is: "let's do it again, Daddy!" As a father, you will be called upon to be a human being, a brahma bull, a launching pad for spaceships, an elevator, and a bicycle repairman. You will be on call 24 hours a day.

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A father is also a teacher. Ephesians 6:4 commands, "Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." The word "admonition" carries the idea of instruction, warning, to train by discipline. As an adviser and teacher, the father is trying to mold the will of the child. The writer of Proverbs is a father doing that very thing. The lesson of Proverbs is: Father, know that children will learn from their mistakes, but can they learn from the mistakes of others? A father must study his children continually, for by wisdom, knowledge, and instruction the home is established (Proverbs 24:3). These are the tools of a father who is training his children for eternity.

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