

*Special thanks to Lou Priolo; Tape: "How to Help an Angry Child". Atlanta Biblical Counseling Center.

FATHERS, DO NOT PROVOKE YOUR CHILDREN TO ANGER
Ephesians 6:4

INTRODUCTION: Rebellion, stubbornness, and anger is often a problem that parents deal with in their children.

A. Stages of Rebellion

1. The individual gets hurt
 - a. Proverbs 18:14
2. The hurt if not dealt with Biblically, (either: forgiven or overlooked) then bitterness ensues.
 - a. Hebrews 12:15
3. Anger - (Characterological)
 - a. Proverbs 22:24,25
 1. Not momentary, but of the character, one who is continually given over to anger.
4. Stubbornness
 - a. Deuteronomy 21:18-21
 1. Like a backsliding Heifer
5. Rebellion
 - a. I Samuel 15:23
 - * Your child may not be in the angry, stubborn, or rebellious stage, but you need to understand them, and to be ready to help them biblically when they sin.

B. Examine The Child's Environment For Potential Parental Provocations.

1. Your child is culpable (deserving blame) for his sinful anger.
 - a. Romans 14:12
2. You have a responsibility to try to protect your child from being provoked to anger in your home.
 - a. Ephesians 6:4
 - b. Colossians 3:20,21

C. 23 Common Ways Parents Provoke Children To Anger.

* These are not in any necessary order, but the first five probably have the most potential for damage.

1. By Establishing And Maintaining A Child Centered Rather Than A God Centered Home.

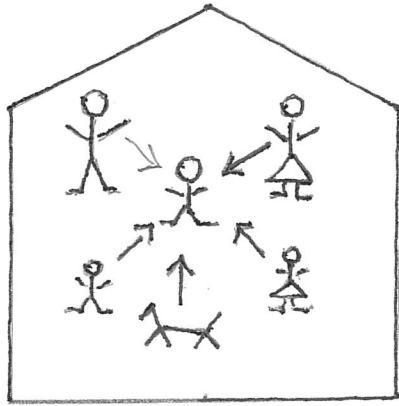
A. Child centered home:

1. The child is in the middle and he perceives that everyone in the home exists primarily to make him happy and to meet his needs. Mom, Dad, Brother, Sister, Dog, and Cat. All exist to meet his needs.
 - a. Can lead to juvenile delinquency.
 - b. "Society owes me a living" may often be their thoughts.

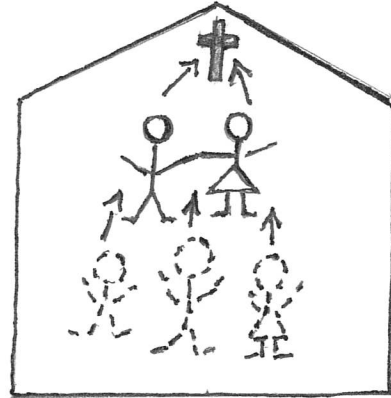
B. The God centered home.

1. Mom and Dad when they were married became one flesh. They are a family.
 - a. Genesis 2:24
 - b. This is a permanent relationship.
 - c. This is the priority relationship.

2. As time went on the children were added on to the family.
 - a. Outlined in dotted line.
 1. They are not one flesh, they are a product of it, added to the family.
 2. This is a temporary relationship.
 3. Not to be as intimate as Mom and Dad.
 4. This is an important but a secondary relationship.



CHILD CENTERED HOME



GOD CENTERED HOME

C. Purpose of the families:

1. Child centered: To meet his needs, he is self-centered.
2. God centered: To glorify God. Everyone in the the family is willing to make sacrifices to that end!

D. Which picture describes your family?

2. By Not Having Marital Harmony.

A. Hebrews 12:15

1. If Mom and Dad are struggling with resentment and bitterness, who is going to be defiled?
 - a. Many - In this case, the closest many, the children.
 - b. The kids will be affected by the bitterness.
2. A lot of people think that a good marriage is a marriage with no conflicts and a bad marriage is a marriage with conflicts. But that is really not true. If you put any two sinners together and shake them up in the pressure cooker of a home you are going to have conflicts.
 - a. The difference between a good marriage and a bad marriage is not a that there are no conflicts, but in a good marriage the couple knows how to resolve the conflicts biblically.
 - b. When Mom and Dad do not know how or will not resolve marital conflicts biblically, bitterness, resentment and lack of harmony will be the quick result.

3. By Demonstrating Sinful Anger.

A. Proverbs 22:24,25

1. If you discipline your child in anger on a regular basis they will be hurt.
2. If you discipline your child because you are angry at what he did to you.
 - a. He embarrassed you.
 - b. He messed up your plans.
 - c. He cramps your lifestyle
 - d. He does something that reminds you of a weakness you have.
3. Kids can often tell if they are disciplined with a righteous or unrighteous anger.
 - a. They view your discipline as a means of wrongly using your authority to:
 1. Inflict them with your own vengeance.
 2. Vindictive.
 3. A club to hurt.
 - b. They know it is not to lead them to righteousness and bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

4. Constantly Disciplining In Anger

- A. Psalm 6:1
- B. Psalm 38:1
 - a. In our case it would be sinful anger.
 1. Ephesians 4:26
 - b. Blowing Up - Mount St. Helens to destroy
 1. They never see it done right, they are only ever the brunt of the anger.

Disciplining Inconsistently

- A. James 2:18
- B. Ecclesiastes 8:11
 1. Two typical ways of disciplining inconsistently.
 - a. The Father and Mother have different standards of discipline.
 1. The Father spans the Mother reasons.
 2. The Father sees a certain behavior as unacceptable. The Mother sees the same behavior as acceptable.
 - * Better for one of the parents to loosen up a little bit and the other to tighten up a little bit and the two be in unity, than to run the risk of having two different philosophies or raising your children provoking them to anger.
 - b. The other way this inconsistency is typically demonstrated is when there is a vacillation from one day to another on either what is or what is not punishable behavior or on how such punishment should be administered.
 1. Not so much that Dad has one view of discipline and Mom has another, but that one day a particular offense is disciplined, the next day it's overlooked and then the third day it is disciplined severely.
 2. They can be in agreement, but not follow through with the discipline.

6. By Having Double Standards

A. Philippians 4:9

1. This is taught in your home everyday.
 - a. Telling the kids not to use drugs but then you smoke cigarettes.
 - b. Telling the kids not to lie, but when the phone rings and you do not want to answer it, you tell them "tell them I'm not home".

7. By Not Admitting When You Are Wrong

A. James 5:16

1. Very important that parents demonstrate humility in the home.
 - a. The greatest way humility is not exercised in families is when family members do not acknowledge that they are wrong.
 - b. Some conflicts will never be resolved unless the person who has sinned will acknowledge that they were wrong.

B. Four Part Procedure For Forgiveness

- * Saying I'm sorry is not usually effective. One person says I'm sorry, the other person says I'm sorry too. But nothing has been resolved. When you ask for forgiveness the other person must then respond. Then you obey God in Luke 17:3.
1. Confess that what you did was wrong, a sin.
 2. Try to identify the biblical terminology of the sin. I was selfish, I was proud, I was sinfully angry. Use God's words, not man's wisdom. Compare spiritual words with spiritual concepts.
 3. Acknowledge what you could have done differently. (This convinces the person that you truly are sorry.)
 - a. What I should have done is thus and thus.
 - b. What I should have said is such and such.
 4. To ask for forgiveness.
 - a. Will you forgive me?

8. By Constantly Finding Fault

A. Proverbs 19:11

B. I Peter 4:8

- a. Knowing those sins which to overlook and those not to overlook.
- b. Do not overlook those that are habitual, those which they keep doing over and over again.
 - 1, Those are the characterological or life dominating sins. Need to be dealt with biblically.

9. By reversing God Given Roles

A. Genesis 3:16

B. Ephesians 5:22-24

1. Kids know in a Christian Home that the

Father is the Spiritual Head and if he is not, the kids may respond in anger.

10. By Not Listening To The Child's Opinion Or Their Side Of The Story

A. Proverbs 18:2

B. Proverbs 18:13

C. Proverbs 18:17

1. You do not have to agree with your kids opinion, many times you are not going to, but you at least need to listen to them and try to understand them. It may be that part of your helping him to change his opinion is by guiding the truth of the scriptures around the road blocks he may have put up. If you do not understand his concerns it will be difficult to change his opinion.

11. By Comparing Your Child To Others

A. II Corinthians 10:12

1. You will always be able to find someone more or less gifted in various ways, but that is not the way Scripture directs you to compare.

B. How to compare:

1. Looking backward to where they have been.
 - a. Where they are today compared to where they were yesterday.
2. Looking forward to Christ's image and character built in them.
 - a. Where they are today compared to the perfect sanctification God will work in them.

12. By Not Having Time To Talk With Your Kids

A. Ecclesiastes 3:7

1. Putting the job or ministry before family is typically the way it is manifested.
 - a. Ephesians 5:18-6:9 - Priority Outline
 1. Being filled with the Spirit
 - a. Ephesians 5:18-10
 2. Husband and Wife relationship
 - a. Ephesians 5:21-33
 3. Parents and Children relationship
 - a. Ephesians 6:1-4
 4. Employer, Employee Relationship
 - a. Ephesians 6:51-9
2. Revelation is a prerequisite for having a relationship.
 1. You could not have had a relationship with your Savior and Lord Jesus Christ unless he had first revealed himself to you in the Scriptures.
 - a. It is the same with people. The more you reveal yourself, the closer your relationship is going to become.
 - b. You can't have a relationship with your kids unless you will reveal yourself to them and they reveal themselves to you.

13. By Not Praising The Child For His Or Her Achievements

A. II Corinthians 2:6,7

1. If you are constantly on the child's case about what they are doing wrong and not praising them for what they are doing right, then they may become "overcome by excessive sorrow".
2. The Church of Ephesus - Revelation 2:1-7
 - a. First the Apostle John praised them for nine things. Then he reproves them and gives them counsel.

14. By Failing to Keep Promises

A. Psalm 15:4

1. Psalm 15 - The Psalm of Stability
2. One of the things that one who "will never be shaken", (vs. 5) is to keep his promise even if he ends up losing in some way.

15. By Scolding Him in Front of Others

A. Matthew 18:15

B. Proverbs 25:9

C. Exception

1. John 21:15-17
2. Sometimes permissible for an act of disobedience to be handled in front of others if done in front of others.
3. A child who sins without an audience should be disciplined without an audience unless that sin becomes public.

16. By Giving Him Too Much Freedom

A. Proverbs 29:15

1. Look at the lives of many of the children of different people in the Old Testament.

17. By Being Too Strict

A. Matthew 23:1-4

B. James 3:17

- a. Reasonable
- b. Willing to yield
- c. Easy to be entreated
- d. Approachable
 1. Relatively easy to ask you about things that are not clearly delineated in God's Word.
 - a. No appeal about clear sin.
 1. "Can I tell a lie?"
 2. "No"
 - b. Sometimes about things that may not be clear.
 1. "What about my curfew?"
 2. It may be wiser in some situations to change the time, than to automatically say no.

18. By Making Fun Of The Child

A. Job 17:1,2

1. Two Categories to especially watch:
 - a. Things that have nothing to do with pleasing God.
 1. Intellect

- 2. Athletic Ability
 - a. Exodus 4:11
 - b. God is the one who gives those abilities and takes credit for some of the disabilities.
- b. Things that God sent His Son to die for, things that are sinful.

19. By Physically Abusing The Child

- A. I Timothy 3:3
- B. Titus 1:7
- C. A "somewhat" helpful analogy.
 - 1. Numbers 22:21-35, Balaam and his Burrow
 - a. Balaam struck the burrow before he had the data.
 - b. He struck the burrow because he was embarrassed.
 - c. He struck the donkey because he was out of control.

20. By Calling The Child Names

- A. Ephesians 4:29
 - 1. Two Guidelines if call a name.
 - a. Use biblical names to describe the sin.
 - 1. If habitually given over to the sin.
 - a. Lying - a liar
 - b. Foolish - becoming a fool
 - c. Names like Dingbat and Meathead are not acceptable.
 - b. Make sure there is enough evidence to convict so you are not making false accusations.
 - 1. Only use when they are habitually given over to sin.

21. By Having Unrealistic Expectations Intellectually, Spiritually, Physically Or Emotionally.

- A. I Corinthians 13:11
 - 1. Children grow developmentally.
 - a. Expecting the child to have straight A's rather than being disciplined in doing his best.
 - b. Expecting them to be perfect, rather than expecting them to confess and repent, then growing spiritually after he sins.
 - c. Expecting him to change instantly versus expecting him to go in the right direction.
 - 1. This is progressive sanctification.
 - a. They are not perfect and will not change overnight.
 - d. Expecting unregenerate teenagers to act like Christians.
 - 1. If a child is not a believer, you cannot expect him to have the same motives as a kid who is a Christian.
 - 2. You can expect him to conform to some rules and make some reforms in his life, but he cannot experience total transformation the way you could a child who has the Spirit of God living inside of him.
 - e. Expecting Christian Teens to always want to do the right, rather than expecting them to do right even when they don't want to.
 - 1. The question is not how they feel, but will

they go against their feelings and do what is right.

22. By Showing Favoritism to One Child Above Another

A. Luke 15:25-32

1. The older son was angry when he thought his Father was favoring the Prodigal Son.
 - a. This was a misconception, but this perceived favoritism made him angry.

23. By Being Legalistic

A. Matthew 15:9

1. As parents you have the responsibility to develop house rules. "The laws of the house"

God's Commands

1. Not Steal
2. Not Lie
3. Not Covet

The Laws of the House

1. 9:00 PM Bedtime
2. Hair standards
3. Eat your broccoli

B. God's Commands

1. It is always wrong if they do not obey them and you must confront your child if they break them. Even after they have left your house.
 - a. Matthew 18:15
2. They may not be appealed to.

C. The Laws of the House

1. They are to be based on Biblical Principles for the unity of the House.
2. It is sin if the child breaks them while living under your roof.
3. They must be differentiated from the Scriptures.
4. They may be appealed to from time to time.

III. The Need To Teach The Child To Distinguish Between Righteous Anger And Sinful Anger

A. Righteous Anger:

1. When God does not get what he wants.
 - a. Ultimately God is Sovereign and everything that happens is decreed by God.
 - b. According to His revealed will.
 - c. When someone sins and you are angry because they have sinned and broken the law of God.
 1. Ephesians 4:26
2. Here Christ is Lord

B. Sinful Anger:

1. When I don't get what I want.

Children obey you.

 - a. But you might be angry because they have embarrassed you.
2. Here you are Lord.

C. The Struggle sometimes is that you can have both kinds of anger at the same time.

1. Because they have sinned against God.
2. Because they have sinned against you.
3. Anger can start as righteous anger in your heart, but can come out as sinful anger from your lips and destroy other persons.

IV. Habituate The Child in Biblical Communication Skills

A. Whenever there is a problem in life, there is

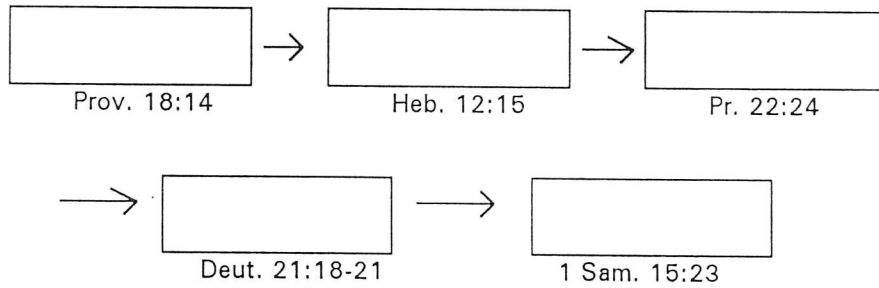
- is always the potential to be come angry.
1. More often than not, we be come angry at people and not things.
- B. Sinful responses to anger:
1. Blow up
 - a. Ventilates it on someone else.
 - b. Proverbs 29:11
 - c. Destroys others
 2. Clam up
 - a. Give the cold shoulder, pout
 - b. Ephesians 4:26
 - c. Destroys ourselves
- C. The anger is given by God to destroy the problem
1. Communication is the means of solving the problems with others.
 2. You therefore must teach your kids to communicate to deal with the problem biblically. Four Rules of Communication
- D. Proper communication involves choosing more than just the right words. (Will you forgive me?)
1. In the Epistles (letters) of the New Testament there are 45 different imperatives (commands) on how to communicate.
 2. The right tone of voice is also important.
 - a. Proverbs 16:21
 - b. Proverbs 15:1
 1. From those who study communication, it is said that the tone of voice communicates eight things more than the content of the actual words.
 3. We also communicate with our non-verbal communication.
 - a. Countenance - facial expressions
 1. Psalm 10:4
 2. Isaiah 3:9
 4. Need to teach the right words, right tone of voice, and the right non-verbal communication.

V. Train Your Child How To Use The Anger Journal When He Becomes Sinfully Angry

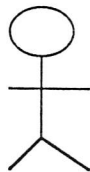
- A. (Copy of the Anger Journal is on the last page)
1. Identify the circumstantial provocations of the anger. (What started the mishap.)
 2. Describe the outward manifestations of the anger. (How did he act?)
 3. Evaluate Biblically the exact nature of the anger. (Biblical terminology for the sin)
 4. Develop an Alternative Biblical Response To The Circumstantial Provocation. (What he should have done.)
- * At first have the child answer questions 1 & 2 and then help him with 3 & 4 until they can do it on their own.

INTRODUCTION:

I. UNDERSTAND THE PROCESS OF _____.



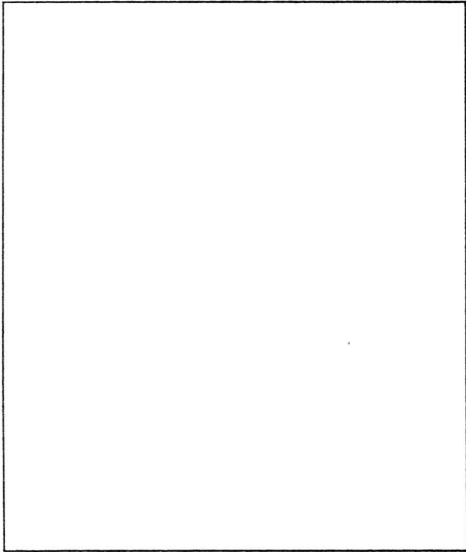
II.. EXAMINE THE CHILD'S _____ FOR POTENTIAL



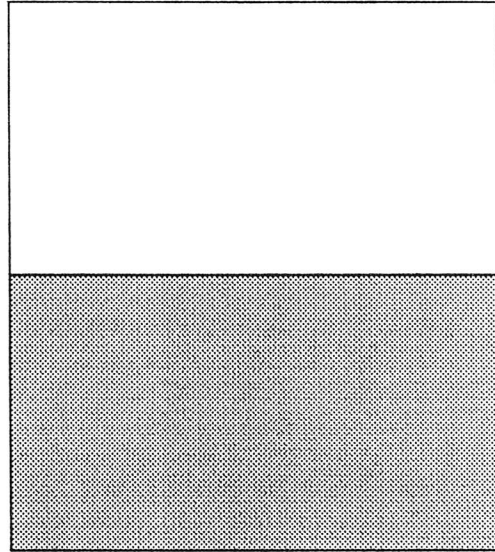
ANGER PROBLEM
(For which he is _____
_____ before God.)

23 WAYS TO PROVOKE YOUR CHILD TO ANGER

- A. BY ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING A _____
RATHER THAN A _____ HOME. (GEN. 2:24)



CHILD - CENTERED HOME



GOD - CENTERED HOME

- B. BY NOT HAVING MARITAL _____. (Heb. 12:15)
- C. BY _____ SINFUL ANGER. (Prov. 22:24, 25)
- D. BY CONSISTENTLY _____ IN ANGER. (Ps. 6:1)
- E. BY DISCIPLINING _____. (James 2:18)
- F. BY HAVING _____ STANDARDS. (Matt. 23:1-4)
- G. BY NOT _____ WHEN _____. (James 5:10)
- H. BY CONSTANTLY _____ . (Prov. 19:11)

- I. BY _____ GOD-GIVEN ROLES. (Gen. 3:16)
- J. BY NOT _____ TO THE CHILD'S _____
OR HIS/HER SIDE OF THE STORY. (Prov. 18:13)
- K. BY _____ THE CHILD TO OTHERS. (2 Cor. 10:12)
- L. BY NOT HAVING TIME TO _____. (Ecc. 3:7)
- M. BY NOT _____ CHILD FOR HIS/HER _____.
(2 Cor. 2:6,7)
- N. BY FAILING TO KEEP _____. (Ps. 15:4)
- O. BY _____ HIM/HER IN FRONT OF OTHERS. (Matt. 18:15)
- P. BY GIVING TOO MUCH _____. (Prov. 29:15)
- Q. BY BEING TOO _____ (Matt. 23:1-4)
- R. BY _____ OF THE CHILD. (Job 17:1-2)
- S. BY _____ THE CHILD. (Num. 22:21-35)
- T. BY CALLING THE CHILD _____. (Eph. 4:29)

U. BY HAVING _____ -
INTELLECTUALLY, SPIRITUALLY, PHYSICALLY, OR
EMOTIONALLY. (1 Cor. 13:11)

V. BY SHOWING _____ ONE CHILD
_____ ANOTHER. (Luke 15:25 ff)

W. BY BEING _____ . (Matt. 15:9)

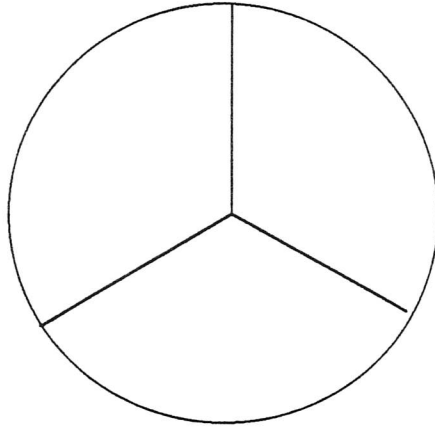
III. TEACH THE CHILD TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN RIGHTEOUS
ANGER AND SINFUL ANGER.

RIGHTEOUS ANGER	SINFUL ANGER
Eph. 4:26	James 4:1

IV. _____ THE CHILD IN BIBLICAL _____
SKILLS.

A. Proper Communication is Essential to _____ .

B. Proper Communication Involves Choosing More Than Just the Right



V. _____ THE CHILD TO USE THE _____ WHEN HE BECOMES SINFULLY ANGRY.

A. STEP ONE: IDENTIFY THE _____ OF THE ANGER.

B. STEP TWO: DESCRIBE THE _____ OF THE ANGER.

C. STEP THREE: EVALUATE BIBLICALLY THE _____ OF THE ANGER.

D. STEP FOUR: DEVELOP AN _____ BIBLICAL _____ TO THE CIRCUMSTANCIAL PROVOCATION.

ANGER JOURNAL

1. What are the circumstances that led to my becoming angry?
(What happened that provoked me to anger?)

2. What did I say/do when I became angry?
(How did I respond to the circumstances?)

3. What is the biblical evaluation of what I said/did when I became angry?
(How does the Bible classify what I said/did when I became angry?)

4. What should I have said/done when I became angry?
(How could I have responded biblically when I became angry?)
