

Unfaithful Children and Elders

The Tragedy of Unfaithful Children

- The ideal: faithful children

Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

Ephesians 6:4 - And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

3 John 4 - I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Proverbs 23:24 - The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise child will delight in him.

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (NKJV)

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! **5** You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. **6** “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. **7** You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. **8** You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. **9** You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

The Tragedy of Unfaithful Children

- The ideal: faithful children
- The reality: some children go astray

Proverbs 17:21 - He who begets a scoffer does so to his sorrow, And the father of a fool has no joy.

Proverbs 17:25 - A foolish son is a grief to his father, And bitterness to her who bore him.

Matthew 10:34–37 - “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. **35** For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; **36** and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ **37** He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

The Tragedy of Unfaithful Children

- The ideal: faithful children
- The reality: some children go astray
- Case study: Eli

1 Samuel 2:12–17 (NKJV)

Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; **they did not know the LORD.** **13** And the priests' custom with the people was that when any man offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fleshhook in his hand while the meat was boiling. **14** Then he would thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; and the priest would take for himself all that the fleshhook brought up. So they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there

1 Samuel 2:12–17 (NKJV)

15 Also, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who sacrificed, "Give meat for roasting to the priest, for he will not take boiled meat from you, but raw." **16** And if the man said to him, "They should really burn the fat first; then you may take as much as your heart desires," he would then answer him, "No, but you must give it now; and if not, I will take it by force." **17** Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

1 Samuel 2:22–25 (NKJV)

Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. **23** So he said to them, “Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people. **24** No, my sons! For it is not a good report that I hear. You make the LORD’s people transgress. **25** If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?” Nevertheless they did not heed the voice of their father, because the LORD desired to kill them.

1 Samuel 2:27–30 (NKJV)

Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, “Thus says the LORD: ‘...? **29** Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling place, and **honor your sons more than Me**, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?’ **30** Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: ‘I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.’ But now the LORD says: ‘Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.’”

1 Samuel 2:31–34 (NKJV)

Behold, the days are coming that I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house. **32** And you will see an enemy in My dwelling place, despite all the good which God does for Israel. And there shall not be an old man in your house forever. **33** But any of your men whom I do not cut off from My altar shall consume your eyes and grieve your heart. And all the descendants of your house shall die in the flower of their age. **34** Now this shall be a sign to you that will come upon your two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they shall die, both of them.

1 Samuel 3:11–14 (NKJV)

Then the LORD said to Samuel: “Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. **12** In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. **13** For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them. **14** And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever.”

1 Samuel 4:16–18 (NKJV)

Then the man said to Eli, “I am he who came from the battle. And I fled today from the battle line.” And he said, “What happened, my son?” **17** So the messenger answered and said, “Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has been a great slaughter among the people. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead; and the ark of God has been captured.” **18** Then it happened, when he made mention of the ark of God, that Eli fell off the seat backward by the side of the gate; and his neck was broken and he died, for the man was old and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years.

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- Case study: Eli
- Case study: Samuel

1 Samuel 8:1–5 (NKJV)

Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel. **2** The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. **3** But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice. **4** Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, **5** and said to him, “Look, you are old, and **your sons do not walk in your ways.** Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”

1 Samuel 12:23–25 (NKJV)

Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way. **24** Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. **25** But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.”

1 Samuel 7:15–17 (NKJV)

And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. **16** He went from year to year on a circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah, and judged Israel in all those places. **17** But he always returned to Ramah, for his home was there. There he judged Israel, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

Ezekiel 18:20 (NKJV)

The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

The Guilt of the Father

- Raising children in an unrestrained way (1 Sam. 3:13)
- Provoking them to wrath (Eph. 6:4)
- Failing to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord
- Failing to respond to the dissipation and insubordination of adult children properly

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“Having Faithful Children”

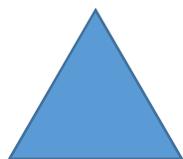
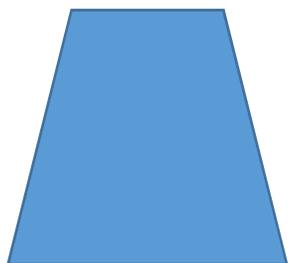
- Does a man who has one or more faithful children, but who also has one or more unfaithful children, meet this qualification?
- In order to be a “faithful child” is it enough for a child to be baptized?

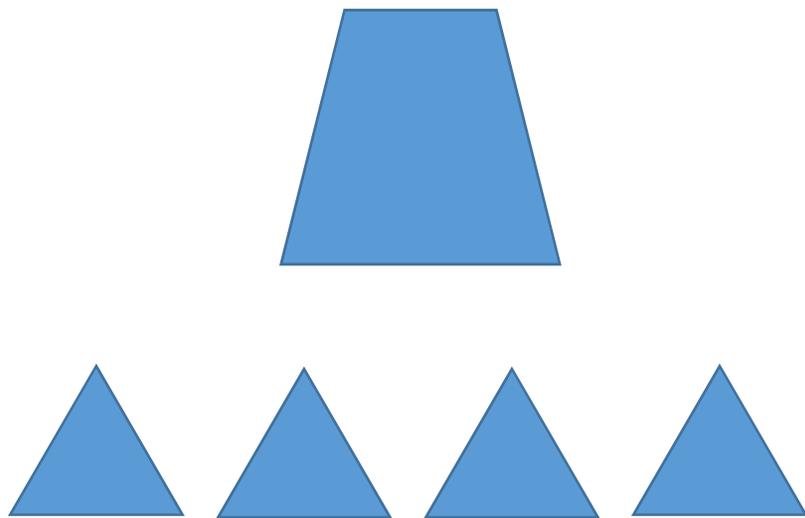
1 Timothy 3:1–7 (NKJV)

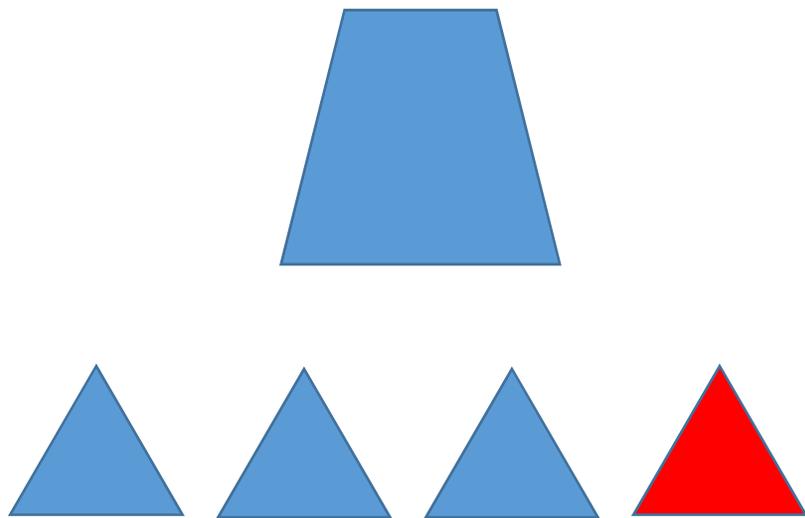
This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. **2** A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife... **4** one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence **5** (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);

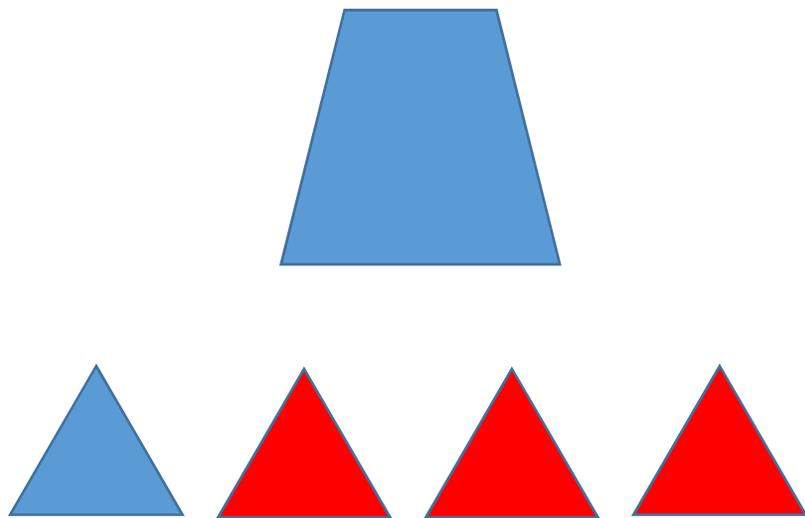
Titus 1:5–9 (NKJV)

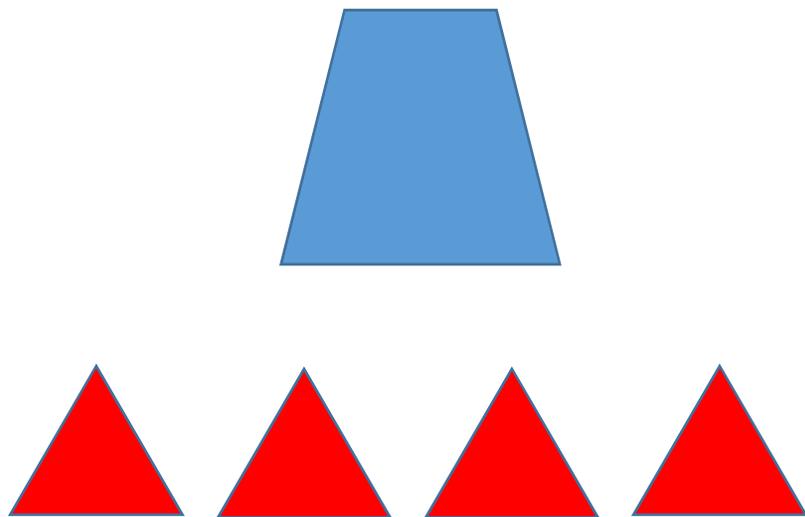
For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—**6** if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.











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What if I...?

- Raise my children in an unrestrained way (1 Sam. 3:13)
- Provoke them to wrath
- Fail to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4)
- Fail to respond to the dissipation or insubordination of adult children properly

Isaiah 57:15 (NKJV)

For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.