

He's Not Exasperated

Ephesians 6:4 “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

My wife had a far away friend call her and say, “Amy, my teenage son was standing in front of me, and I said to myself, ‘Who is this person?’”

I have three children that are all wired up so differently, and I asked the LORD, “How do I not exasperate my children when they’re so exasperating to me sometimes?”

This still small voice said in my spirit, “Look and learn at how I love you.”

Ugh. If anybody’s guilty of being spiritually exasperating to God, it’s me.

What I still can’t fathom is that every single time I mess up or fall short, that when I cry out to him, he sends me a “Jesus with skin on” or some divinely orchestrated situation to come and bless me with encouragement. His gentleness truly does make us great (Psalm 18:35), and it’s his kindness that leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4).

Dr. Larry Crabb shared the story of when his son was expelled from Taylor University in Indiana, a Christian College. Larry had spent so much time with his kids indoctrinating them about Jesus Christ, and by the age of eight, his kids knew the definition of “propitiation”. But when his son was busted, the LORD told him to go to his son and love him.

When he arrived to meet with his son, he said, “Son, what can I do to help?”

The next day, his son for the first time, gave his life to Christ. He said that all of his years growing up he knew doctrine, theology, and all about Christianity. But when he saw the unconditional love lived out, he wanted that in his own life.

God wants to help you too. He put everything that would ever exasperate him about you on the cross 2000 years ago.