

25 Ways Parents Provoke their Children

1. Lack of marital harmony ([Gen. 2:24](#); [Heb. 12:15](#))
2. Establishing and maintaining a child-centered home ([Pro. 29:15](#))
3. Modeling sinful anger ([Pro. 22:24,25](#))
4. Habitually disciplining while angry ([Ps. 38:1](#); [Eph. 4:26,27](#); [Jas. 1:19,20](#))
5. Scolding ([Eph. 4:29](#); [Mk. 14:3-5](#))
6. Being inconsistent with discipline ([2 Cor. 1:17,18](#); [Ecc. 8:11](#))
7. Having double standards ([Phil. 4:9](#))
8. Being legalistic[2] ([Mt. 15:8-9](#))
9. Not admitting you're wrong and not asking for forgiveness [3] ([Mt. 5:23,24](#); [Jas. 5:16](#))
10. Constantly finding fault ([Job 32:2,3](#); [Pro. 19:11](#))
11. Parents reversing God-given roles ([Eph. 5:22-24](#))
12. Not listening to your child's opinion or taking his or her "side of the story" seriously ([Pro. 18:13,17](#))
13. Comparing them to others ([2 Cor. 10:12](#))
14. Not making time "just to talk" ([Jas. 1:19](#); [Ecc. 3:7](#))
15. Not praising or encouraging your child ([Rev. 2:2-4](#))
16. Failing to keep your promises ([Mt. 5:37](#); [Ps. 15:4-5](#); [Col. 3:9](#))
17. Chastening in front of others ([Mt. 18:15](#))
18. Not allowing enough freedom ([Jas. 3:17](#); [Lk. 12:48](#))
19. Allowing too much freedom ([Pro. 29:15](#); [Gal. 4:1,2](#); [Heb. 12:6-9](#))
20. Mocking your child ([Job 17:1-2](#); [Ex. 4:11](#))
21. Abusing them physically ([1 Ti. 3:3](#); [Num. 22:27-29](#): Balaam struck the donkey in haste because the donkey embarrassed him, and Balaam was out of control)
22. Ridiculing or name calling ([Eph. 4:29](#))
23. Unrealistic expectations ([1 Cor. 13:11](#))
24. Practicing favoritism ([Lk. 15:25-30](#))
25. Child training with worldly methodologies inconsistent with God's Word ([Eph. 6:4](#))

[1] Priolo, Lou, *The Heart of Anger: Practical Help for the Prevention and Cure of Anger in Children*. Amityville, New York: Calvary Press Publishing, 1997, pp. 30-51.

[2] "The legalism I am referring to is that strain which elevates manmade rules to the same level of culpability as those commands which God has [explicitly] given in Scripture." (p. 36; the word "explicitly" was added for emphasis and clarity)

[3] For a biblical and practical treatment of forgiveness, please read Jay Adams, *From Forgiveness to Forgiving*. Amityville, NY: Calvary Press Publishing, 1994.