

Embrace  
Holy  
Living

# RE- FLECTING GOD

**01/11/13 - Encourage The Children**

Colossians 3:18-4:1 [RG AUDIO 011113](#)

Colossians 3 & 4 looks at practical holiness to the family unit. Family relationships should be a mirror of our relationship with our heavenly Father. As he values and encourages each of us, no matter our social standing, so we should value and encourage one another, especially within the family unit.

The message to the fathers is strong. They are the earthly representatives of the heavenly Father, so the relationship to their children is crucial. Sweet infants, so beautiful and precious, grow into children and teens that develop their own attitudes, preferences, and personalities. We can choose to be encouraging teachers who shape their lives positively for the kingdom and God, or we can discourage them by a caustic and critical manner.

Discouragement is the easy route, often leading to despair and personal destruction. Encouragement requires much more intentional instruction and incredible patience. The investment of time and energy in encouragement, however, will pay huge dividends eventually as a balanced, productive, positive adult emerges who will also encourage others to seek holiness.