

207 - Parenting

I. Introduction:

Sunday afternoons were my favorite days during summers on my grandfather's ranch. That's when we'd go "visiting", calling on second cousins, great aunts, adopted friends, and other relatives at their farms. I remember having a warm, settled feeling as I sat on the porch and listened to the older folks remembering the shared stories of their lives. My sense of security grew from an awareness that all this had been going on before me, that though I was a part of it, I wasn't responsible for it. It didn't depend on me. You've heard that children care more that their parents love each other than that they love them and this is the reason why. It's the assurance that there is something grand and good going on that doesn't rest on your shoulders, something that doesn't even culminate in you, but rather invites you up into it.

John Eldredge – The Sacred Romance

II. Goals of Parenting (Eph 6:1-4)

A. Misconceptions

B. Intimate Relationship

C. Modeling Christ

1. Proper _____ of God
2. Proper _____ in Christ
3. God's _____ For Our Lives

III. Principles Of Parenting

"Behold, children are a gift from the Lord" – Ps. 127:3

A. _____ the gift

B. _____ the gift

1. _____ your children
2. Learn their _____
3. Meeting Intimacy _____

C. Discipline Issues

1. _____ of Discipline

2. _____ of Discipline

“It is essential to separate behavior from identity”

3. Avoid _____ discipline

4. Use _____ discipline

5. Affirm _____ after discipline

6. Punishment vs. Discipline

a. Punishment is _____

b. Discipline seeks _____

7. Discipline Hazards

IV. Non-nuclear Families

A. _____ Families

1. Discipline Issues
2. Favoritism
3. Children Will _____ and Exploit Step Parent
4. Children Will _____ Against Strong Authority Figures
"Rules without relationship equals rebellion" – David Ferguson
5. Loss Of _____
6. Child often feels _____ for divorce or break-up of family

B. _____ Families

1. Parent often attempts to be both _____
2. Often results in _____ burdens
3. Danger of emotional _____
4. Ex-spouse _____

C. _____ Families

1. Children assume _____ for family unity
2. Shame-based grid
3. Perpetual _____ Syndrome
4. Other Symptoms

V. Parenting Styles

A. Dictator

B. Doormat

C. Graceful

VI. Stages Of Development

A. Erickson's Stages (Attached)

B. Duvall's Model of the Family Life Cycle (Attached)

C. Critical Stages

1. Conception

2. Prenatal

3. Birth

4. Naming

5. Bonding

6. School
7. Adolescence
8. Early Adulthood

VII. Conclusion

God's intention is for parents to be an outlet of His love, acceptance, and value for children. The parent's expression of God's blessing, security and plan for their lives lead the children to desire an intimate relationship with Him.

Unfortunately, our best efforts as parents will not prevent children from experiencing the problems of a fallen world. Adam and Eve lived in a secluded paradise with a perfect Father, but still were rebellious. All parents fail in being perfect parents and producing perfect children.

Erickson's Stages Of Development

Age	Stage	Issues
0-1	Trust Vs. Mistrust	Quality of maternal relationship leads to security, affection, and hope, or fear and suspicion. Consistent dependable care will foster a trusting nature.
2-3	Autonomy Vs. Shame and doubt	Freedom and support of free will and struggle for independence. Origins of fear of failure and doubt; shame over rebellious nature.
4-5	Initiative Vs Guilt	Child can initiate rather than respond -- inquisitive and adventurous spirit evolves. Excessive restrictions will foster more guilt over natural urge to explore.
6-11	Industry Vs Inferiority	Realization of basic competencies, striving to compete and excel; criticism leads to sense of inferiority.
12-18	Identity Vs Role confusion	Search for sex, age, and career identity -- for individuality as a person. Inability to establish stability creates confusion.
Early Adult	Intimacy Vs Isolation	Overcoming safety of social distances to love and the fear of losing self in the process.
Middle Age	Generativity Vs Stagnation	Issues of productivity and guiding next generation take precedence unless self-absorption and stagnation dominate.
Late Maturity	Integrity Vs Despair	Realization of wisdom and period of reflection about life or regret over lost opportunity.

Duvall's Model of the Family Life Cycle

Stages of the Family Life Cycle	Positions In the Family	Stage-critical Family Developmental tasks
1. Married Couple	Wife Husband	Establish a mutually satisfying marriage Adjusting to pregnancy and the promise of parenthood Fitting into the kin network
2. Childbearing	Wife-mother Husband-father Infant daughter/ son or both	Having, adjusting to, and encouraging the development of infants
3. Preschool age	Wife-mother Husband-father Daughter-sister Son-brother	Adapting to the critical needs and interests of preschool children in stimulating, growth promoting ways
4. School age	Wife-mother Husband-father Daughter-sister Son-brother	Fitting into the community of school-age families in constructive ways Encouraging children's educational achievement
5. Teenage	Wife-mother Husband-father Daughter-sister Son-brother	Balancing freedom with responsibility as teenagers mature and emancipate themselves
6. Launching center	Wife-mother-grandmother Husband-father-grandfather Daughter-sister-aunt Son-brother-uncle	Releasing young adults into work, military service, college, marriage, etc., with appropriate rituals and assistance
7. Middle-aged parents	Wife-mother-grandmother Husband-father-grandfather	Rebuilding the marriage relationship Maintaining kin ties with older and younger generations
8. Aging family members	Widow/widower Wife-mother-grandmother Husband-father-grandfather	Coping with bereavement and living alone Closing the family home or adapting it to aging Adjusting to retirement

Children Learn What They Live

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.
If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.
If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.
If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.
If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.
If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.
If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.
If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.
If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.
If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns
to find love in the world.

By Dorothy Law Nolte

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