

Parenting

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

Misconceptions

1. Get my kids to obey (Control their behavior)
2. Maintain the family image
3. Get my kids to like me
4. Make them successful
5. I'm okay if you're okay

Truth:

II. Principles Of Parenting

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

A. Opening the gift

1. Understand your children
2. Learn their "bent" (Prov 22:6)
3. Meeting Intimacy Needs
 - a. Acceptance (Rom 15:7)
 - b. Affection (Rom 16:16; Mk 10:16)
 - c. Appreciation (Col 3:15b; I Cor 11:2)
 - d. Approval (Blessing) (Eph 4:29; Mk 1:11)
 - e. Attention (I Cor 12:25)
 - f. Comfort (Rom 12:15b; Matt 5:4; II Cor 1:3-4; John 11:35)
 - g. Encouragement (I Thes 5:11; Heb 10:24)
 - h. Respect (Rom 12:10)
 - i. Security (Rom 12:16,18)
 - j. Support (Gal 6:2)

B. Discipline Issues

1. Areas of Discipline
 - a. Disobedience
 - b. Disrespect
 - c. Irresponsibility
 - d. Attitude? (Is it possible to change attitudes)
2. Methods Of Discipline

"It is essential to separate behavior from identity"

- a. Polite Requests
 - b. "I" Messages
 - c. Natural and logical consequences
 - d. Loss of privileges
 - e. Spanking (proper instrument, time, and location)
- 3. Avoid double discipline
- 4. Use consistent discipline
 - a. Consistent with the offense (call too much, take phone)
 - b. Consistent to pre-established guidelines (go over expectations)
 - c. Consistent between parents (parents discuss plan)
- 5. Affirm love after discipline
- 6. Punishment vs. Discipline
 - a. Punishment is punitive
 - b. Discipline seeks highest good
- 7. Discipline Hazards
 - a. Codependent parenting
 - b. Discipline in anger
 - c. Unrealistic Demands
 - d. Age inappropriate instruction

III. Parenting Styles

A. Dictator

- 1. "My way or the highway"
- 2. Seeks his own good, not that of the family
- 3. Must always be right
- 4. Must have the last word
- 5. Competitive, punitive, angry
- 6. Feelings are not allowed to be expressed

B. Doormat

1. Will never make a decision
2. Uses passivity to control
3. Never assumes responsibility for family issues
4. Blames, excuses, or denies responsibility
5. Appears to be “the nice guy”

C. Graceful

1. Servant leadership
2. Cultivates and nourishes the gifts of the family
3. Involved in each family member’s activity
4. People are more important than performance
5. Clear boundaries and rules (sit down talk and be clear)
6. Feelings are allowed and encouraged

IV. Conclusion

We all have basic needs: love, security, acceptance, adequacy, and worth

A. Parents provide a sense of belonging
Love, acceptance, security, importance

B. Parents provide a sense of worthiness
Value, purpose, and significance

C. Parents provide a sense of confidence
Encouragement, autonomy, inter-dependence

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.