

PARENTING CHILDREN FOR HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

1984 "The Natural" Iris to Roy Hobbs: "You know, I believe we have 2 lives. The life we learn with and the life we live we live with after that."

John Steinbeck borrowed a line from a Scottish Poet, Burns, when he stated, "The best laid plans of mice and men often go a-rye."

As adults, we know that family members, bosses, co-workers, spouses, friends, church members can blind side us with their greed, cruelty, deceit, selfishness! We want to protect and shield are children from this unforeseen heart-ache! These quotes represent a fear we could agree with! But, praise God we serve a trust-worthy, unconditionally loving, wise Abba Father!

Thank goodness His word says this:

Proverbs 16:9 states, "In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."

BUT, do we walk in this truth? Tonight, **TRUST** is the focal characteristic I want to focus on for preparing your kids for healthy relationships. When we walk in the trust of God and His word, there is support, strength, security, peace in the face of the storms: death, addiction, unfair teachers, cruel bosses.....

You can do this! I come from a world that I see walking miracles every day who stand firm and continue to trust and 5, 10, 20 years later see breakthroughs!

You have all you need as a Christian IN you IN Christ! Even if your mama and daddy didn't give it to you

First, do we believe God is trustworthy and is the source of our joy, happiness, peace, strength? If not, we will react in our relationships in the FLESH and NOT the SPIRIT (Romans 8). We will discipline in our own understanding, power, and fear.

Do we DELAY our responses to conflict/offense and give to the Lord first? My office is littered with kids and teens who do not trust their parents. We demand complete obedience, but our “laws” are picked through fear instead of hope!

EX: “Why should I agree with you? Why are you always “right” and I’m always “wrong” just because you’re older? As you’re cussing/yelling at me?”

TRUSTWORTHY CHARACTERISTICS OF ABBA FATHER TO PRACTICE:

***God’s order of Authority: Caretakers of heart, soul, and mind and God is on the throne.**

We obey him first: MODEL “If you love me, you’ll keep my commandments” (ESV). Jn 14:15-31

Proverbs 19:21 There are many devices in a man’s heart; nevertheless, the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand!

John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you-that you love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

John 14:23 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”

Does my life, my relationships, my reactions line up with the Word? Do I gossip, do I punish when hurt, do I lie, do I control due to fear?

How are you responding to your husband, wife, boss, children when they disagree with you or, your “rights” are ignored?

Larry Crabb, in his book, “Men and Women: Enjoying the differences,” talks about an illness both sexes have: the gravitational pull to self-selfishness, self-pity, self need.....

Trusting in Abba Father, says, I'll turn the other cheek, I'm not going to lash out, I'm not going to take matters into my own hands until I hear from Him!

With my children, I'm not going to give them an attitude back, I'm not going to use my position to hurt them with words, or instill fear in them....

TRUST does not look like:

Coddling....tantrums.....spoiled....."do it for me".....Compulsions.....lost

Criticizing....hurt/anger.....hostile....."leave me alone".....Blaming.....Bitter

Ignoring...fear.....defeatism....."I'm not enough".....Avoidance.....empty TRUST is:

***Supportive/Reliable...Confidence...Motivated..."I can do"....Determination....Satisfied (Lamentations 3:22-24)**

***Honesty (mom would never lie about me not being home....) John 16:13*Gentleness/compassionate (Isaiah 30:18-19, 40:11)*Do what you say you're going to do- words and actions jive. ((Is 55:11)*Respect/Honor to all of God's people! "Thank you. Please. Forgive me. I'm Sorry" (Rom. 2:4) (I Jn. 1:9) *Fair/Just (Luke 18:7, Acts 17:31)**

***Wise in teaching (James 3:17)*Keeps private details quiet (1 Peter 4:8)**

***Allows remembers our developmental stage (Allow kids to grow by trying age appropriate tasks) (Is 40:28-never grows weary).**

What a list OF relational qualities for your children to acquire to prepare them for adult life!!!! Praise God for His word and Christ's example!

Parenting for Ridgeview

I. Part 1: Love and Understanding A. Love: God is always our accurate standard of love not man.

1. Matthew 17: 1-3, 5 “This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him.” KJV

Romans 5:6-8

“But God shows and clearly proves His own love for us by the fact that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” AMP

Hebrews 12:6

“For the Lord corrects and disciplines everyone whom He loves, and He scourges every son whom He accepts and welcomes to His heart and cherishes.” AMP (later week for lesson on discipline).

B. Parental love in action 1. Tell children and spouse (Christ if single parent) how valuable they are to you.

(Do not assume they already know) (Do not link statements of value to child’s accomplishments) Ex: I love you because you are mine!

I love you no matter what! You are God’s precious gift to me!

2. Make an unconditional commitment to them and your spouse (Christ if single parent) for life!

“You’re important to me today, tomorrow, no matter what!” “No matter what you say or do, or what happens, or the cost, I will always

love you.”

3. Schedule special time with family and make them a priority.

Ex: love tank

Ex: camping, walks, hunting, making decorations together, outreach, participate in their hobbies, game nights, bed time prayers.

4. Be available to them both during scheduled and unscheduled times without complaining/murmuring. (Balanced with respect)

Ex: during favorite TV show Ex: cleaning/chores

5. Make yourself accountable to spouse/close friend/small group/standard of the word.

*provides objective and honest reflection. *sets example of teachable/correctable heart for children

C. Spirit-Controlled Temperaments (Tim Lahaye) 1. Proverbs 22:6 (you are special/unique bent)

“Train up a child in the way HE should go” (ESV). 2. God wants to make Himself KNOWN to us and He KNOWS us

(known means: studied through great focus and attention over a lifetime, understood, accepted) Numbers 22:6 and Ps 31:7 “Thou hast known my soul in adversities.” KJV Proverbs 20:11 “Even a child is KNOWN by his doings.” KJV

3. Fruits of the Spirit illustrates Christ’s nature (Gal 5) EX: See Temperament Charts

A. Treasures: Value/Worth 1. Biblical view of treasures:

Isaiah 33:6 “And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is his treasure.” KJV

Matthew 6:19-21 (vs 21) “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. KJV

Matthew 14:44 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. KJV

Treasure defined: attaching great importance or high value to person or objects. What or who we kneel down, set, devote life to, or serve. What is stock piled, collected, hidden, cherished. Where we place our: attention/focus, time, money, passions, pleasures, and worries.

Heart defined: the pulse of inner life; thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, purpose, will, spirit.

Examples of Treasures: gold, silver, rubies, weapons, power, beauty, land, livestock, houses, boats, people, love letters, kisses, clothes, grain, wisdom, knowledge, presence of the Holy Spirit.

2. What you treasure most will define what your children treasure and how they view their worth/value.

Ex: We give what we believe is important to our family of origin. 41st birthday with Cole, Bailey, Anthony “am I enough to bring you delight, or are you rushing off to something more precious than me?”

Ex: We value others as we value/treasure ourselves: critical/cheap thoughts of self. 3. Ways to Treasure your children

B.

- Treasure/need the grace of Christ/cross through speaking delight of God’s word, time in church, singing His praises, admitting when you’re wrong and need forgiveness. (Be genuine and yourself).
- Undivided individual focus/time with your spouse (Christ if single) and children. Anticipate upcoming date, plan with

children, and talk about later the delight in the time together.

- Ex: Bed time, dates, dancing in kitchen to praise music, puzzles, games, hunting
- Collect and cherish their gifts of: presence, hugs, kisses, letters, words of love, school work, birthday/mother's day/father's day crafts.
- Lay aside distractions/priority in agenda: stop folding laundry, pause football game, schedule business meetings around their games/recitals, be home when they're home, save \$ for college. Ex: death bed wish. Safety/Protection/Comfort in the Lord 1. Basic human need from conception to death in the natural/emotional/spiritual realm.

Psalm 91:1-21 (Ps 91:3,4) “For He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings shall you trust and find refuge; His truth and His faithfulness are a shield and a buckler.” (ESV)

Psalm 28:1-7 (Ps. 28:6-7) “Blessed be the Lord, because He has heard the voice of my supplications. The Lord is my Strength and my Shield; my heart trusts in, relies on, and confidently leans on Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my personal song will I praise Him.” AMP

Psalm 90:14 “O satisfy us with Your mercy and loving-kindness in the morning (while we are young), that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.” AMP

2. Practical parenting with protection and comfort.

- Create a safe home environment: safety proof physically, attentiveness to cry, hunger, needs. Be aware of fights, yelling, anger, emotions as master. Ex: abused children, neglected children.
- Understand there are some unavoidable traumas and you lead

by example with your reactions to: death, accidents, poverty, natural disasters with your fear or faith.

- Comfort your children when they have physical pain, when they experience emotional rejection from other children, when you hear they are not calming down from discipline.

3. Fruit produced:

- Lack of safety/comfort characteristics: withdraws or hides from close relationships and God, puts up walls to protect, or shoots criticism to protect self from others, anxious, fearful, rejects soothing from others, suspicious, hides true self from world.
- Abundance of safety/comfort: restful, desires to create close relationships, trusts God and family of origin, desire to communicate opinions, emotions, and listen to others, comforted in relationships, freedom to be themselves.

II. IMPLEMENTING BOUNDARIES Is what we are doing with our parenting being done on purpose?

Or are we doing it from reasons that we do not think about such as our own personality, childhood, need of the moment or fears.

Many times we parent in the present without thinking about the future. We are in REACTIVE mode rather than PROACTIVE mode.
Hebrews 12:5-8

It is essential to realize that when you get Johnny to do his homework, it is not just about getting that assignment done; it is about the possible success or failure of marriage/career.

The patterns children establish early in life(their character) they will live out later. A major goal of raising children is to help them develop the character that will make their future go well.

A child needs to know where they begin, what they need to take responsibility for, and what they do not need to take responsibility for.
Proverbs 20:11

An accurate description of children is little people who are out of control of themselves and attempting to control everyone around them. They do not naturally want to adapt to Mom and Dad, they want them to change the requirements!!

Children are not born with boundaries: *A well defined sense of who they are. What they are responsible for.

The ability to choose wisely. The understanding that if they choose well, things will

well, if choosing poorly they will suffer. The possibility for true love based in freedom.

A. THE THREE ROLES OF A PARENT: Guardian: Provides the child with a safe environment for learning and gaining wisdom.

- . 1) Dangers within themselves.
- . 2) Dangers in the outside world.
- . 3) Inappropriate freedoms that they are not ready to handle.
- . 4) Never appropriate or evil actions (drugs, underage drinking)
- . 5) Their own regressive tendency to remain dependent and avoid growing up.

Manager: Makes sure things get done—goals are reached, demands and expectations are met. They oversee the day to day hard work reaching of goals.

Source: Children need to learn how to receive and use responsibly what is given them and gradually take over the role of meeting their own needs.

“Problem children” do not evolve in a vacuum. Every problem child generally has a problem context, and kids with healthy limits do not grow them out of thin air.

Who we are today is essentially the result of two forces: Our environment and our responses to it. Basically, children will mature to the level the parent structures them and no higher. B. YOUR THREE AVENUES OF INFLUENCE

Teaching: The concepts and principles of boundaries are explicit and clear. Teach your children boundary principles, not simply practical applications. Even young children can learn the statement, “You are responsible for your behavior.”

Modeling: Children observe and learn from how you operate with boundaries in your own world. Boundaries are “caught” more than they are “taught.”

Do you have “House Rules” for your family?? The Lockaby House Rules are:

- . 1) Our number one job as mom and dad is to protect you.
- . 2) We obey which is doing what you’re told, when you’re told with the right heart attitude.
- . 3) Lockabys stick together and look out for each other.
- . 4) Discussion is great, bickering and arguing—not!
- . 5) No lying for any reason.

Helping your child to internalize: If your boundary training consists only of words, you are wasting your breath. But if you “do boundaries” with your kids, they internalize the experience. **Example:** “No one interrupts another person who is talking.” When little Johnny can say, “Mom you interrupted me.” And mom can respond nondefensively with, “You’re right son. Sorry about that,” the child is learning that

respect is something grown ups do. Conversely, “Johnny, you don’t understand. What I needed to say had to be said because it was very important.” Johnny would be just as likely to become defensive and justify his behavior when confronted on infractions.

Example: A child uses all of his allowance money week one, but finds something he “needs” the following week.

III. OBSTACLES TO TEACHING BOUNDARIES:

The kid’s job is to test your resolve, so she can learn about reality. Your job is to withstand the test including anger, pouting, tantrums, and much more.

A. Depending on the Child:

The problem arises when parents need a child’s closeness or affection to meet their own unmet needs. When you need someone’s love, it is very difficult to confront or deprive them, or you risk losing this love through anger or withdrawal.

If soothing, comforting and taking care of Dad/Mom’s emotional needs gets them connected, they will take on that role.

Ex: “Why can’t I spend the night at Madeline’s house!!”

B. Over identifying with the Child:

What might be discomfort for the toddler is seen as trauma by the mother; what may be anxiety for the teen is experienced as panic by the father.

You need wise counsel if you struggle with this, and your child needs a parent who can distinguish between hurt and harm.

Ex: Troy and Catherine’s date night.

C. Thinking Love and Separateness are Enemies:

There is a common faulty belief that structuring and being separate

are the same thing as loss of love. Perfect love casteth out all fear. I
John 4:18

Many parents fear that disagreeing, confronting, or just being different from their children indicates a break in the connection. Remember you are likely a different temperament than your child.

D. Ignoring and Zapping:

Parents often put up with inappropriate behavior, hoping it will go away. Instead it escalates and the parental resentment grows.

Ignoring and zapping teaches the child she should persist in whatever she wants. She learns she can get away with murder nine times out of ten, and just needs to learn how to endure the out-of-control parent that one time out of ten.

We would never treat disease or infection this way.

E. Being Worn Down:

It is scary how kids can sense when we are weak and ready to give in to them.

It IS worth the fight. Each time you let them neglect responsibilities, the child's ability to be a self-controlled person is eroded.

The trick to parenting is to hold on to your limit just one more time than your child holds onto their demand.

Don't just SAY boundaries, BE BOUNDARIES.

Case Scenarios: WHAT WOULD YOU DO???

Case 1: Mom and Dad have 3 small children at home. Mom struggles in that when she has the children at home, they fail to obey, tend to sass, and generally ignore her corrections. When Dad is home, they shape up and he does not understand her frustration. "They mind when I'm here," he says.

Case 2: Mom and Dad have an elementary school child trying to make friends at their local church. There is a child that is really not a bad kid, but certainly wouldn't be their first choice as a friend for their child. Their child is invited to spend the night at this friend's house, and Mom and Dad certainly don't want to offend the friend's parents, but are unsure what to do.

Case 3: Mom and Dad have a 12 y/o son/daughter. The parents had previously decided the child could have a cell phone at age 16 when driving began. Otherwise, they knew his/her location before the child was mobile in a car. Of course, all the child's friends have cell phones and he/she is increasingly upset. At family dinner, the conversation arises and to the husband's surprise, mom states, "Maybe we should think about a track phone and see how things go." The husband snaps back, "We've already discussed this; you know the rule. "

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