

RELATIONSHIPS THAT WORK: PARENTS AND CHILDREN

Select Passages • July 8, 2007 • Pastor Mike Newman

RELATIONSHIPS that WORK

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Psalm 127:3 (NLT) ³Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him.

John 1:12 (NLT) ¹²But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

Galatians 3:26 (NLT) ²⁶For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 6:4 (NLT) ⁴Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

Hebrews 12:5-11 (NLT) ⁵And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, “My child, don’t make light of the LORD’s discipline, and don’t give up when he corrects you. ⁶For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.”

⁷As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? ⁸If God doesn’t discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. ⁹Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn’t we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? ¹⁰For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God’s discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. ¹¹No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it’s painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

Proverbs 13:24 (NLT) ²⁴Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them.

Proverbs 19:18 (NLT) ¹⁸Discipline your children while there is hope. Otherwise you will ruin their lives.

Proverbs 23:13 (NLT) ¹³Don’t fail to discipline your children. They won’t die if you spank them.

Proverbs 29:17 (NLT) ¹⁷Discipline your children, and they will give you peace of mind and will make your heart glad.

Four Biblical Principles:

1) Choose to view your children as a _____

✓ See Psalm 127:3

*If you are the parent of a child today,
you are a blessed person!*

2) Develop a clear set of _____ (rules) and make sure they are _____.

✓ See John 1:12, Galatians 3:26, and Ephesians 6:4

Things to keep in mind:

- If you want to get a good picture of how the parent/child relationship is supposed to work, look at how God relates to us and treats us.
- Rules and boundaries only help your relationships go better when they are clearly communicated.
- We provoke our children to anger when we have unspoken expectations and rules.
- In the same way God goes over and over the rules and boundaries in the Bible, we too need to remember to communicate the boundaries and rules over and over again to our children.

3) Administer discipline _____ and with _____ and tailor it to what works for each child.

✓ See Hebrews 12:5-11, Proverbs 13:24, Proverbs 23:13, Proverbs 29:17, and Ephesians 6:4



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Ephesians 6:4 (NLT) ⁴Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

Deuteronomy 11:18-21 (NLT) ¹⁸So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. ¹⁹Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. ²⁰Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, ²¹so that as long as the sky remains above the earth, you and your children may flourish in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors.

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the elders or pastors following the service today (they are available in the prayer room by the world map in the church lobby) or contact the church office at 717-762-7147 to set up an appointment. You may also check out the Beginning Your Journey link on our website:

www.otterbeinchurch.org

Remember, one size doesn't fit all. While every child needs to be disciplined at times, how you go about it will be different for each child and will change as your child grows up.

Things to keep in mind:

- Always discipline with control over your emotions.
- Discipline out of love and not simply for the sake of punishment.
- Use the least amount of discipline necessary to get the desired result.
- Start when they are young.
- Don't give up.

4) Make God an _____ of your life and your relationship with your children.

- ✓ See Deuteronomy 11:18-21

In order for God to be an important part of your home, you need to make sure God is not just the focus of your life for one hour each week.

When God is not a central part of your home, your relationships with your children will be much worse. But when God is a central part of your home, you will leave a lasting legacy with your children and grandchildren and things will go much better.

As a result of today's sermon, I will...



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