

# To Love Their *Married* Children

By Bonnie Merkle



*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor. (Romans 12:10)*

## Introduction

- A time of relational change
- Scriptural love is key
- Notes

## Cultivating Communication Competence



“Nature gave us one tongue and two ears so we could hear twice as much as we speak.”  
(Epictetus, Greek philosopher)

- Consider the timing (Proverbs 15:23)
- Share the truth in kindness and not pride (Proverbs 13:10)
- Seek to edify (Ephesians 4:29)
- Express yourself in a nonabrasive and affirming manner (Colossians 4:6)
- Aim for understanding (Proverbs 18:2; 16:23)
- Handle difficult issues with care (Colossians 4:6)
- Learn to listen (James 1:19)
- Notes

# General Relational Principles



## Valuable Realizations

- Realize the dynamics
- Realize your baggage
- Realize your limitations
- Realize your niche
- Notes

## Emotional Facets

- Hope for the best and expect the best
- Nurture a thankful spirit (Psalm 92:1)
- Be slow to anger (Proverbs 19:11)
- Keep from developing bitterness (Hebrews 12:15)
- Uphold a spirit of fairness
- Avoid covetousness and jealousy
- Maintain a spirit of joy and a sense of humor (Proverbs 17:22)
- Notes

## Mental Posture

- Keep confidences (Proverbs 11:13)
- Ponder the right kinds of things (Luke 2:19)
- Notes

## Specific Relational Principles



### Relating to the Newlyweds

- Adjust to their style as a married couple
- Communicate boundaries
- Encourage them to love and care for their respective in-laws
- Avoid meddling in money matters
- Notes

### Relating to a Married Son

- Gracefully relinquish your role
- Compliment rather than criticize his wife
- Encourage his efforts to be a leader
- Exercise sensitivity regarding expressions of affection
- Notes

### Relating to a Married Daughter

- Encourage obedience to her husband
- Avoid becoming her confidante
- Meet your God-given responsibilities
- Notes

## Specific Relational Principles



### Relating to a Son-in-law

- Encourage his headship
- Concentrate on his good qualities
- Notes

### Relating to a Daughter-in-law

- Minimize expectations
- Communicate your acceptance
- Temper your emotions and your mouth
- Notes

## Our Continued Ministry



### Be an Example

- Display a vibrant trust in God (Matthew 5:16)
- Graciously adjust to change
- Exhibit a pilgrim walk
- Illustrate a continued commitment to your marriage vows
- Notes

### Forever Support Them with Your Prayers

- To be righteous and blameless before God (Luke 1:6)
- To walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing and be fruitful in every good work (Colossians 1:10)
- To grow in their understanding of their covenant vows and continue to uphold them (Malachi 2:14)
- To set a pure example (I John 3:3)
- To seek God's wisdom (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- To think Biblically about trials (James 1:2-3)
- To accept and act upon their God-given responsibilities (Ruth/Boaz)
- To have a conscience void of offense before God and man (Acts 24:16)
- Notes

### Sources Consulted

- *All Scripture taken from the NASB.*
- *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, Walvoord and Zuck
- *To the Parents of My Grandchildren*, G. C. Willis
- *Unger's Bible Handbook*
- *Notes on the Bible*, Albert Barnes
- *Commentary on the Whole Bible*, Matthew Henry
- *Photo of Snake Plant*, © 2008 Wikipedia