

Loving Our Children

Relationships between Mom and Children



by Betty Dahlhausen

*We urge you, brethren,
admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted,
help the weak, be patient with everyone.
~ 1 Thessalonians 5:14*

"We are God's agents on the watch, His instrument of help and preparation as this child makes his final steps out of the home and into God's world. Our goal is to be used of Him to instill in our children an ever-maturing self-control through the principles of the Word and to allow them to exercise ever-widening circles of choice, control, and independence." ~ P. Tripp



Love means sacrifice. "Each member of the family has to learn to give in, give up, and give over for the sake of the rest." ~ Elliot



"It is expensive to love. Every parent understands this. The investment of emotions, time, energy and expense involved in loving your family is exceedingly great. It is a huge expenditure to put others, even our families, first. It costs very little to love myself. This is beyond the natural, it's supernatural." ~ Minnick

"Communication is the art of expressing in godly ways what is in my heart and of hearing completely and understanding what another thinks and feels." - T. Tripp

- Communication is dialogue, not monologue
- Initiate. Don't wait for teen to talk to you
- LISTEN
 - ◇ Two ears, 1 mouth – listen twice as much as you speak
 - ◇ Mom's response determines teen's willingness to talk
 - If child is rebuffed, won't talk later, need to be confident that there's a listening ear
 - Be stable, don't react to emotional outbursts! Don't act shocked!
 - HEAR HIM OUT!!
 - Keep his confidence, except from Dad

- Speak
 - ◇ The truth in love
 - ◇ "If there's one thing you could change about me, what would it be?"
 - ◇ Answer his questions, even the unspoken ones
 - ◇ Give genuine praise; look for the good and point it out!
 - ◇ Differing conditions in the hearer require differing forms of speaking

*Eph. 4:29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment so that it will **give grace to those who hear**. Encourage, correct, entreat, instruct, warn, and teach.*

Spend Time

- How do your children spell love? T-I-M-E
- Children require both time and flexibility.

"When her conscience is stirred, you need to talk. This may require dropping everything else to seize a critical moment."

~ T. Tripp

Take time and in so doing say, *"You are important and what God says is important, so I'm willing to invest the time necessary to be His instrument."* ~ P. Tripp

- Be approachable and available: "I have nothing to fear when I come to you."
- Don't make home a "no fun zone"



Understand Your Teen (Proverbs 1-7)

- No hunger for wisdom or correction
- Doesn't tend to be good listener
- Tends towards legalism
- Tends to be unwise in choice of companions
- Susceptible to temptation
- No eternal perspective
- Lack of heart awareness – Jer. 17:9
- Insecure, vulnerable, anxious, unstable, apprehensive about appearance



Encourage

- Where are your words taking your children?
- REMEMBER! REMEMBER! REMEMBER!
- Be real! Share your own struggles, admit wrongs and ask forgiveness.
- Crawl inside his heart!
 - ◇ *“A willingness to enter into childish troubles, a readiness to take part in childish joys, —these are the cords by which a child may be led most easily—these are the clues you must follow if you would find the way to his/her heart.”*
~ J. C. Ryle
 - ◇ Hos. 11:4 Christ leads us with bonds of love
- Enter your teen’s world. Be interested and involved in the day-to-day events
- Believe the best, believe in him, believe him! 1 Cor. 13
- Build him up! Don’t nag, belittle, harp, criticize

Resolve Conflict

- Go for the heart! Pr. 20:5
- This is what we must be committed to in our relationships. Thank God for the opportunity to deal with issues, and work to uncover heart issues rather than opting for quick, surface solutions
- Principle of inescapable influence – what controls my heart will control my life!

Conflict is

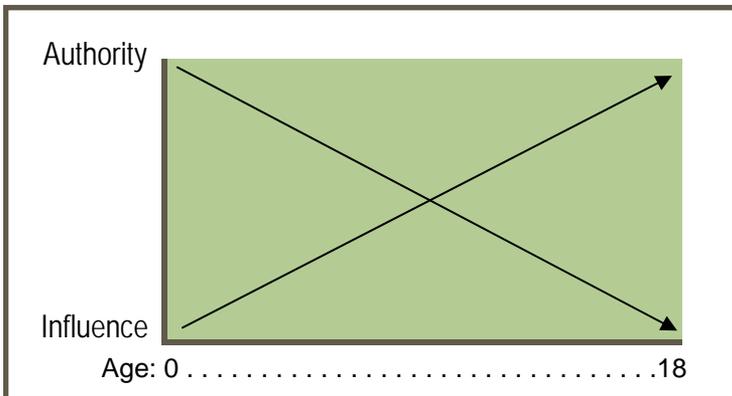
- ◇ Worse than I think
Jas. 4:1-2 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?
- ◇ Simpler than I think
- ◇ Easier to resolve than I think – Jas. 4:10

~ Mahaney

- Right time, right place, right tone – always in private!
- Teach him how to make a loving, respectful appeal
- Conscience
 - ◇ Rom. 2:14-15 ...*in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them.*
 - ◇ The child's controversy is always with God. Point him to Christ!
 - ◇ *"As parents faithfully hold themselves and their children to God's high standard, children will begin to see their utter need for Christ."*
 - ◇ *"If we are not compromising God's standards by accepting a human, second-best standard, God's law will reveal sin."* (P. Tripp)

Develop an Adult Relationship

- Must have long-term vision
- Give him a measure of independence in his decisions and let him bear the consequences
- Allow room for disagreement, let him be himself
- Ask his opinion



Sources Cited / Recommended:

Age of Opportunity, Paul Tripp

Girl Talk, Carole Mahaney

Pro-Active Parenting, James Lucas

Shepherding a Child's Heart, Ted Tripp

The Shaping of a Christian Family, Elisabeth Elliot



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