

Loving Our Children: Biblical Relationships

by Katie Leedy

*So, as those who have been chosen of God,
holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion,
kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;
¹³Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other,
whoever has a complaint against anyone;
just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.
¹⁴Beyond all these things put on love,
which is the perfect bond of unity.
~ Colossians 3:12-14*



I. Our Relationship as Mother to our Children

The kind of relationship you have with your children is foundational for having a fruitful ministry with them.

A. The Ideal ☺

1. The foundation of parents as a loving authority is established.
2. Characterized by the fruit of the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. . . .

~ Galatians 5:22-23

3. Love for each other is abundantly evident (Colossians 3:12-14; I Corinthians 13).
4. Trust and confidence is the norm between parents and children.
5. There is unity of heart and spirit.

B. The Sometimes Reality ☹

1. Characterized by the works of the flesh
2. No real communication going on: "I'm just not getting through!"
3. Lack of trust and confidence between parents and children.
4. Children are not on the same page as the parents.

C. Developing the Ideal into a Reality

1. Have a right attitude toward your role as mother
 - a. It is a **God-given *ministry*** (Psalm 113:9).
 - b. Embrace it with **joy and thanksgiving** (Psalm 127:3-5).
 - c. Call on God for His wisdom and help.
Pray and pray and pray some more!
(James 1:5, II Peter 1:3)
 - d. Never give up! Proverbs 24:16

2. **KNOW and love your child!**
 - a. Remember, he or she IS a ***child***.
 - b. You must spend **time** with each child.
 - c. You must **observe** your child.
 - d. You must not only love your child, but also **LIKE** your child.
 - e. Talk with your husband about what he sees in your children.

3. **COMMUNICATE** with your child!

“Communication is the art of expressing in godly ways what is in my heart and hearing completely and understanding what another thinks and feels. Home is the place for developing these.”

~ Paul Tripp

- a. We are communicating **SOMETHING** all the time



- b. Show your love by how you communicate with your words.
 - o **Talk** to your children! At all ages!
 - o Follow Scriptural teaching for *how* to speak and interact with others (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:12-14, I Thessalonians 5:14).
 - o Use VARIED kinds of word communication.

Word Communication	
Enthusiastic Encouragers	Proverbs 3:27
Loving Correctors	Ephesians 6:4
Humble Entreators	Proverbs 23:26
Sacrificing Rebukers	Proverbs 19:18
Observant Warners	Proverbs 4:23
Tireless Teachers	Proverbs 1:8
Powerful Prayers	Colossians 4:2
Energetic Exhorters	Proverbs 3:1-2

- o Don't exasperate your children or cause them to lose heart (Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21).

c. Show your love by **LISTENING**.

“Communication is not monologue. It is dialogue. It is not only the ability to talk, but also the ability to listen.”

~ Paul Tripp

- Proverbs 18:2, 13
- Hear what your children say and what they *don't* say.
- Listen when they want to talk (within guidelines and reason)
- Be a *man* [woman] of *understanding* (Proverbs 20:5).

d. Show your love by your **ACTIONS**

- *Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but **in deed** and truth* (1 John 3:18).
- Children are emotional beings—they *feel* more than reason.

“Sternness and severity of manner chill them and throw them back. It shuts up their hearts, and you will weary yourself to find the door . . . You must set before your children their duty, —command, threaten, punish, reason, —but if affection be wanting in your treatment, your labor will be all in vain.”

~ J. C. Ryle

- Look at your child—**eye contact**.
- Give them **physical affection**.
- SMILE ☺

II. Their Relationship to Us

- Honor us
- Obey us
- Trust and Confidence in Us

III. Their Relationship to Others

A. Father

1. *You* teach them about ways to relate to their father.
2. You are *the* example to them.

B. Siblings

1. *Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brothers [and sisters!] to dwell together in unity* (Psalm 133:1).
2. **Love** one another
3. **Pray** for one another
4. Arguments: deal with root problems and heart issues rather than just refereeing the “fight”.
5. **Train** them to treat each other respectfully, kindly and lovingly.

C. Friends

1. **Teach** them about friendship—what the Bible says.
2. Be **alert** and diligent in overseeing their friendships.
 - a. With unsaved
 - b. With saved
3. **Encourage** good and helpful friendships.
4. Limit times with those who may be a more negative influence on your child.

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