

Heart to Heart

Week Nine – Spiritual Formation: Partnering with the Holy Spirit to Influence Your Children

In discipline, ask yourself:

- What is the goal?
- What consequence is the most natural?
- How can I take away the “thing” not the relationship?
- What can I do so that the discipline stays in the moment?
- How can I make the expectation positive instead of negative?

Rules – Relationship = Rebellious Kids

Relationship – Rules = Resentful Kids

Relationship + Rules = Respectful Kids

“God cares more about the length of a child’s character than He does about the length of their hair. He’s also far more concerned about the song in their heart than He is about the music coming from their stereo.” - *Grace-based Parenting*

Guidelines when dad isn’t in agreement

- Mom is *not* the Holy Spirit. ☺
- Timing is everything!
- Let humility make the point.

10 Characteristics of Grace-based Parents:

1. **Grace-based parents honestly affirm their children.**
Proverbs 18:21 “The tongue has the power of life and death.”
2. **Grace-based parents give their children and his/her friends, their attention.**
Proverbs 22:6 Train up child according to their natural bent ...
3. **Grace-based parents admonish their children w/grace and courtesy.**
Colossians 3:12-14; Hebrews 13:5-9

“Discipline is one of the key tools God has given to parents to help groom their children toward greatness!” - *Grace-based Parenting*

4. **Grace-based parents instill hope in their children every chance they get.**
Jeremiah 29:11; Hebrews 6:13-20

5. **Grace-based parents let go when it's time to let go.**
Matthew 6:25-34

6. **Grace-based parents don't make it their aim to raise safe children.**
Isaiah 40:21-28

7. **Grace-based parents *listen* instead of lecture and *pray* instead of judge.**
II Samuel 16:7; Romans 2:4

8. **Grace-based parents create respectful ways for their children to voice their frustrations and/or feelings *about* their parents, *to* their parents.**
Ephesians 4:29-32; 6:4

9. **Grace-based parents accept that their children will struggle with personal sin.**
Romans 3:22-24
 - Don't be surprised by your child's sin.
 - Don't over-react to your child's sin.
 - Don't let your child's sin threaten/frighten you.
 - Don't allow your child's sin embarrass you.

Are you more concerned how others view your children or how God views them?

Grace-based homes are not homes FREE of sin and regret, they are just homes where *no matter what*, no one can be written off." - *Grace-based Parenting*

10. Grace-based parents lead the way spiritually.

Grace-based parenting is a *heart activated plan*; it takes all of its parenting cues from a daily walk with Jesus.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 (Amplified Bible)

¹NOW THIS is the instruction, the laws, and the precepts which the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land to which you go to possess it,

²That you may [reverently] fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son's son, and keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

³Hear therefore, O Israel, and be watchful to do them, that it may be well with you and that you may increase exceedingly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

"a land flowing with milk and honey" is Canaan, the promised land

MILK is a staple that gives one strength.

HONEY is a luxury that makes life sweet.

⁴Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord [the only Lord].

Shema = Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Shema literally means "to listen."

⁵And you shall love the Lord your God with all your [mind and] heart and with your entire being and with all your might.

⁶And these words which I am commanding you this day shall be [first] in your [own] minds and hearts; [then]

⁷You shall whet and sharpen them so as to make them penetrate, and teach and impress them diligently upon the [minds and] hearts of your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up.

⁸And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets (forehead bands) between your eyes. ⁹And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Resources:

- "How to Make Your children Mind Without Losing Yours" by Dr. Kevin Leman
- "Why Christian Kids Rebel" by Tim Kimmel
- "What's Behind the Most Famous Jewish Prayer?"
<http://www.aish.com/jl/m/48954656.html>