

1) Building up a memory bank of happy experiences will engender a good attitude toward you and provide the needed cement in your relationship when you must correct, rebuke, or chastise your children.

2) Often a remembrance of the fun that they have had with you will help them to realize that you are not an ogre or a sourpuss who enjoys being nasty and mean (Ps. 128; Prov.

5:15-18; 15:13; 17:22; Eccles. 3:4; Luke 15:17-24).

f. We should freely communicate love and appreciation to them (John 13:34, 35; 1 Cor. 13:1-8; 16:14; I Thess. 2:7, 8).

1) Make it a practice to frequently manifest your love and appreciation to your children in a tangible form.

2) Do this in many ways-by a hug, a kiss, a pat on the shoulder, by words, by a note, by a gift, by playing with them, by listening to them, by respecting their opinions.

g. We ought to allow them to fail, to make mistakes, to have faults without jumping all over them and giving them the impression that they are not accepted unless they are perfect (Eph. 4:1, 2; Col. 3:12-14; II Tim. 2:24, 25; I Pet. 4:8). Home, for the child, must be a safe place-a place where you will be understood and helped, a place where people will not mock you or make fun of your faults and weaknesses, a place where people may disagree with you but still welcome and respect you, a place where people will encourage you and bind up your wounds, a place where people really care about you.

h. We should make our expectations, rules, and regulations known to them.

1) God makes His expectations for us very clear in His Word. We do not need to be in the dark concerning His desires for us.

2) In similar fashion, we should deal with our children. Not knowing what their parents expect of them can be an alarming, frustrating experience for children. When this happens, they are never sure that they are doing what they should be doing. Nor are they certain that they will not be whacked or yelled at for not doing something they did not know they should be doing. Children are not mind readers. Limits and expectations must be clearly delineated. Their presence provides security and structure. Their absence encourages insecurity, frustration, hostility, and resentment.

i. We ought to admit our mistakes to them, ask forgiveness when we have failed them, and seek to make restitution (Prov. 16:2; 21:2; Matt. 5:23, 24; James 5:16).

j. We need to make it easy and desirable for them to approach us with their problems, difficulties, and concerns.

1) Learn to be a good listener when your children want to talk. Be available to them as much as possible. Give them your undivided attention unless it is infeasible.

2) Avoid being a mind reader or an interrupter or a critic. Stir yourself up to be really interested in what interests your children. They can tell when you are actually listening or just pretending. If you do not give them your undivided attention or if you constantly put them off when they want to talk, they will soon not even try to talk to you. In their minds you are not interested in them anyway. Such a state of affairs is very devastating to your relationship with your children. But even more important than that, such a state of affairs may hinder you from fulfilling your God-given parental goal. Ephesians 6:4 says that the goal of parents for their children should be to bring them up in the Lord.

[Wayne Mack has helpful manuals on marriage]

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God says, **“avoid provoking your children to wrath.”** But how do we fulfill this injunction? .. I offer the following suggestions as a partial answer to that *question*.
To avoid provoking our children to wrath:

a. We must not expect more of them than they are capable of giving or doing (Prov. 22:6; I Cor. 13:11; Gen. 33:12-14). Do not underestimate, but do not overestimate their capabilities (Rom. 12:3).

b. We need to be careful about the way that we reprimand or correct them.

1) Proverbs 15:1; Ephesians 4:31; Matthew 18:15; and I Timothy

5:1, 2 describe the respectful and courteous way we should deal with children as well as adults. Yet how frequently we talk to children in a tone of voice or in a way we would never talk to adults.

2) One man told me that when he was a child his father made a habit of calling him “dumb” or “stupid.” To this day, though he is a very intelligent man with a very responsible position, he still thinks of himself as “dumb” or “stupid.”

3) When speaking to your children, avoid using words like these: “When will you ever. . . .?” “If your head weren’t attached. . . .?” “You always. . . .?” “You never. . . .?” “You dummy.” “You clumsy ox.”

“You slob.” “You knucklehead.” Words such as these can be lethal weapons, leaving damaging scars on your children. If you have been accustomed to speaking to your children in this way, apologize and ask forgiveness, and seek to reassure them that you do love and respect them.

c. We must practice what we preach. We must avoid double standards (Phil. 4:9; I Cor. 11:1; Matt. 23:1-4; Deut. 6:4-9). Children are quick to spot insincerity and hypocrisy. They resent it deeply.

d. We ought to impregnate the minds of our children with proper values and standards by precept and personal example.

1) Our society has made idols out of power, strength, beauty, wealth, intelligence, and athletic ability. These are the things that people value.

2) In our society, a successful person is someone who possesses at least one of these things. A really successful person is someone who has several of these things. An unsuccessful man is someone who has none of these assets.

3) According to the Bible, this way of measuring worth and success is wrong. These are not the things that God values most. These are not the most important things in life. We must, therefore, labor to instill in our children’s minds the fact that we do not value them on the basis of these external, superficial qualities (I Sam. 16:7; I Pet. 3:3, 4). The child who is not as intelligent or handsome or athletically inclined must know that we love him and value him just as much as we do the child who possesses these qualities. (I Corinthians 12:23 contains an important principle on this issue.)

e. We should seek to have many good times with our children.





Our Home Parental Communication

(Ephesians 6:4) "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

Today we discuss two aspects of godly caring communication to really connect us with our kids:

1. Basic _____ of good communication, Proverbs 23:13-24

◆ _____,
Proverbs 18:13



(James 1:19) "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;"

◆ **Listening to _____,**
Proverbs 18:2

◆ _____ **out, Proverbs 20:5**
(Proverbs 20:5) "The purposes of a man's heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out."



2. _____ of good communication,
◆ **You _____ and _____ with your children,**



(Hebrews 4:14-16) "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. {15} For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. {16} Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

◆ **You can help _____ themselves,**
Proverbs 29:25



◆ _____ **building,**
(Titus 2:4) "that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,"

