



Sunday Feb 12, 2012
Like Father, Like Son
(Biblical & Practical Insights on Nurturing Children)

Marriage & Family - Romance & Responsibility

There are one of three possible roads that married couples take in living out married life and balancing romance and responsibility:

- 1, Romance ignores Responsibility – cannot travel too far, as Reality strikes
- 2, Responsibility squashes Romance – go through life with a dry, perhaps unfulfilling marriage
- 3, Balance Romance and Responsibility – marriage as God designed it, heaven on earth

(Some people may not have biological children, but many of these things apply to spiritual children)

God desires godly seed

Malachi 2:14-15

14 Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant.

15 But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

Genesis 18:19

19 For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

Psalms 127:3

3 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

Children Learn What They Live

By Dorothy Law Nolte, Ph.D.

- If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
- If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.
- If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.
- If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.
- If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.
- If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.
- If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.
- If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.
- If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.
- If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.
- If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.
- If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
- If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.
- If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.
- If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.
- If children live with fairness, they learn justice.
- If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.
- If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.
- If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.

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Dorothy Law Nolte, Ph.D., has been a teacher and lecturer on family dynamics and a parenting consultant in family life education for over 40 years. The poem "Children Learn What They Live" was first written in 1954. This is the second revised version of the poem.

Parents, what is the atmosphere in your home filled with?
Is your home filled with criticism, hostility, fear, pity, ridicule, jealousy, shame, etc. OR
Is your home filled with encouragement, tolerance, praise, acceptance, approval, recognition, sharing, honesty, fairness, kindness, security, friendliness, etc.

Stages of a child's development

Infants | Toddler | pre-teen | teenager/adolescent | young adult | married adult

Physical Development
Social & Emotional Development
Thinking Skills
Communication Skills

How we relate to our children in their different stages of growth and development must change.

Have you heard of young adults or even married adults complain "My parents still treat me like a kid!"

"If you treat an individual as he is, he will remain how he is. But if you treat him as if he were what he ought to be and could be, he will become what he ought to be and could be."

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (28 August 1749 – 22 March 1832) was a German writer, pictorial artist, biologist, theoretical physicist, and polymath. He is considered the supreme genius of modern German literature.

Biblical Instructions

A Parent's mission statement – *"to nurture my child in the ways of the Lord and to help my child discover and develop God-given gifts and talents so that my child can be equipped for life and empowered to fulfill the purpose of God".*

1, Grow in the Lord, so your children can follow you

Joshua 24:13-15

13 I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.'

14 "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!

15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Must lead by example.

Psalm 78:1-6

1 Give ear, O my people, to my law; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old,

3 Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us.

4 We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.

5 For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children;

6 That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children,



2, Be Involved

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

e.g. David and his children 2 Samuel chs 13-15

If you don't have time for your children, check up on your priorities. Priorities determine:

- Where you spend your time
- Where you invest your energy
- Where your resources will go
- What your life will produce

Failure to nurture the next generation:

Judges 2:8-13

8 Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died when he was one hundred and ten years old.

9 And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.

10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.

11 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals;

12 and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger.

13 They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.

Eli 1 Samuel 2:22-36; 3:11-14

Samuel 1 Samuel 8:1-7

Daily at night when tucking my children to bed – a time to pray, to speak the word, to listen.

Take time to listen. Create listening time – where your children can tell you anything they want.

Saturday morning breakfasts.

3, Bring Discipline the right way

Proverbs 13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

Proverbs 19:18 Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

Proverbs 23:13 Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

Proverbs 29:17 Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul.

Deal with the character rather than the behavior.

Character comprises of attitudes, motives and values.

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.

Colossians 3:21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Proverbs 16:21 The wise in heart will be called prudent, And sweetness of the lips increases learning.

4, Using Teachable moments

Deuteronomy 6:4-8

4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.



9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Proverbs 25:11,12

11 A word fitly spoken (*the right word at the right time – MESSAGE BIBLE*) is like apples of gold In settings of silver.

12 Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear.

Share your own life stories from your journey with God.

Make the family altar an enjoyable time.

5, Nurture, Don't Force

Allow children to discover their gifting and calling – provide the right environment

Avoid pushing children into areas they are not suited

Allow time for growth and development

Let them be their own – not a shadow of you

Psalm 127:3-5

3 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth.

5 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

Just as the warrior aims the arrow determining its course and target, parents may determine the course and target their children take.

Godly children give you confidence.

6, Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit

Dealing with Tough Topics

Don't be afraid to discuss difficult topics with your children:

- Choices – movies & music
- Choices – friends & parties
- Choices – Drinking, smoking, etc.
- Discovering Life Dream
- Encouraging development of skills, interests, talents
- Developing a life plan
- Imparting the fear of the Lord, faith in God
- Dating & Marriage

It is better that children learn these things from you – rather than go with misinformation they get from some where else.

What Solomon said of David his father:

Proverbs 4:3-7

3 When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother,

4 He also taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live.

5 Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.

6 Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you.

7 Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.

Biblical Promises

Isaiah 8:18 Here am I and the children whom the LORD has given me! We are for signs and wonders in Israel From the LORD of hosts, Who dwells in Mount Zion.

Isaiah 44:3-4

3 For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring;

4 They will spring up among the grass Like willows by the watercourses.'



Isaiah 54:13 All your children shall be taught by the LORD, And great shall be the peace of your children.

Isaiah 59:21 "As for Me," says the LORD, "this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants' descendants," says the LORD, "from this time and forevermore."

God desires that the calling, anointing and revelation released in one generation be passed on to the next and keep increasing in each successive generation

Psalm 112:1-2

1 Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, Who delights greatly in His commandments.
2 His descendants will be mighty on earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed.

Psalm 128:1-6

1 Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways.
2 When you eat the labor of your hands, You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.
3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table.
4 Behold, thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the LORD.
5 The LORD bless you out of Zion, And may you see the good of Jerusalem All the days of your life.
6 Yes, may you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!

Pray the promises and Confess the promises over your children.

Closing Thought

Fatherhood (Parenting) flows from God

Ephesians 3:14-15

14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

As parents, let's seek to learn from God and imitate our heavenly Father in our parenting.
If we can be a reflection of God as Father to our children, they will want to follow the God we follow.

Proverbs 17:6 Children's children are the crown of old men, And the glory of children is their father.

Response time

- Release hurts and pains inflicted by parents Psalm 23:3
- Rising up to be the parent God has called us to be Malachi 4:5,6

Recommended Reading for Parents

Bringing Out the best in your child -Cynthia Ulrich Tobias & Carol Funk, OM books

Seventy-Seven Irrefutable truths of parenting -Dr. Larry Keefauver, www.ymcs.org

Books by Adele Faber & Elaine Mazlish

- a. How to talk so kids will listen and listen so kids will talk
- b. Siblings without rivalry: How to help your children live together so you can live too
- c. How to talk so teens will listen and listen so teens will talk

Books by Dr Ross Campbell

- a. How to really love your child
- b. How to really love your teenager

Books by Gary Chapman & Dr. Ross Campbell

- a. Five love languages of children
- b. Five love languages of teenagers



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>