

Balancing Rules with Relationships

Practical Parenting

Jesus gave His life for us, we must do the same for our children.

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." -1 John 3:16



"We love Him because He first loved us." -1 John 4:19

- Faith is a belief that what a person says is reliable, and a trust in their character.

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:2

- Children need to develop a trust in us - that we will do what is best for them.

Your children are not, never were, and never will be yours.

- Children are guests in your home, placed in your custody by God Himself.
- Your children are people of God, given to you that you might shape them.
- They must carry the "torch" of God when you are dead.

A proper husband and wife relationship is essential to parenting.



- Our children's only hope of appeal is that we are submitted to God, and the Bible is our final authority.
- They need to see that Mom and Dad are people under authority too.
- They need to see that God's ways work in marriage.

Children turn away primarily because of poor relationships...

with Jesus,
with their parents,
and with their hopeless future.

Greater love has no man than this....
John 15:13

A motor cycle works only if it has gasoline...



So too, parenting is only successful if God is working in it.



"My failure to care for Joanne the first year of marriage resulted in years of lost 'oneness' and faulty parenting."

- Charles Bultman

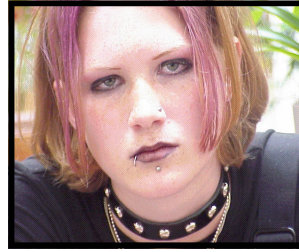


Practical Parenting

Our enemy's goal is to 'divide and conquer'

Husband / Wife—Parents / Children.

Satan's desire is to separate the wisdom of age from the zeal of youth.



The Four 'O's of a Happy Family

1. L**O**ve
2. H**O**nor
3. **O**bedience
4. **O**rderness

Where is the Family Crown?



A Common Dilemma

- Mom becomes overwhelmed and manipulated
- Dad comes home - a dictator
- Mom protects the children from Dad's discipline (they are not "one") and thus trains the children to obey only when Mom agrees with Dad's rules – she has trained them to obey only the rules they like.
- Dad loses the child's heart – They are not "walking together"

Rules without a loving relationship breed rebellion.

(Isn't that true of their relationship with God too?)

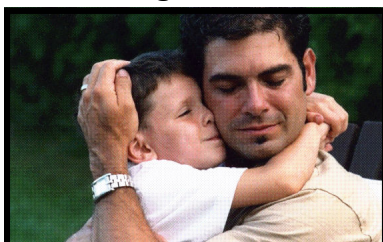
Result:

- "Let me out of here, to where there are no giant messes, no screaming fights, and to where someone really cares about me."
- Your child is now easy prey for any offer of love—from non-Christian sources.
- Evolution often becomes their excuse for rejecting the rules of their parents, and the God their parents represent .

What is your Relationship Index?

Your relationship index consists of the number of "bacpats" (acts of encouragement and praise) minus the number of "yeldats" (negative remarks or actions).

Getting to the heart

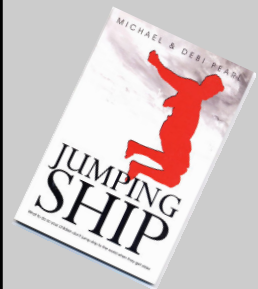


Books we recommend :

- Shepherding a Child's Heart -Tripp
- Romancing your Child's Heart -Swan
- No Greater Joy I, II, III -Pearl
- To Train up a Child -Pearl

Things used to divide parents and teens

- Church Preferences
- Dating Methods
- Friends
- Hair Style
- Sports
- Music
- Videos
- Internet
- Dress



Relationship Index

$$4 - 10 = -6$$



$$\text{Bacpats} - \text{yeldats} = \text{RI}$$



Practical Parenting

Basic Parenting Rule:

Your word must be **GOLD**

- Commands:** Don't give any orders you are not willing to enforce or cannot enforce.
- Consistency:** Mom and Dad both enforce every command. Inconsistency breeds insecurity and invites testing of each order.
- Consequences:** There must be undesirable results for disobeying parents.
 - **Teach, warn once** to make sure they understood, **re-teach**, then **discipline** if the offence is repeated **-no more warnings—EVER.**
 - Once we unintentionally teach our children that commands can be disregarded, they will also disregard God's commands.
 - Enforcing commands is **HARD WORK** but worth every minute of it.

"Wipe that look off your face!"

"I wonder if I will get away with it this time..."

"Would you mind helping me with these dishes?"



Don't give orders you're not willing to enforce:

"Stop that."
"Get away from that."
"Be quiet I mean it!"
"Come here."
"Sit right here."
"Eat that... NOW!"



How come we have well-trained pets, but out of control children?

Where are you sowing?

Don't delude yourself into thinking God can be cheated: where a man sows, there he reaps: If he sows in the field of self-indulgence he will get a harvest of corruption out of it; if he sows in the field of the Spirit he will get from it a harvest of eternal life.

-Galatians 6:7-8





Practical Parenting

Relationship Builders

- Children follow best for love of you.
- When children work **with** me, instead of **for** me, I get a wonderful reward. Transforming productiveness into delight.
- Taking children out to breakfast each week reduces my frustration by 92.543%.
- A weekly date with my wife has made life soooooo much nicer.
- I can plan on bedtime requests and use that time to read, pray, and talk to a child.
- Sex-ed can be much easier in the context of God's wisdom in a fallen world.
- Share your fun with children and share your child's fun with them.
- Explore God's creation with them. Go camping.
- Reading Aloud to each other.

Do you feel your love is unappreciated?

Learn to communicate in your child's love language:

1. Words of Affirmation
2. Acts of Service
3. Receiving Gifts
4. Quality Time
5. Physical Touch

Read The Five Love Language of Teenagers by Gary Chapman

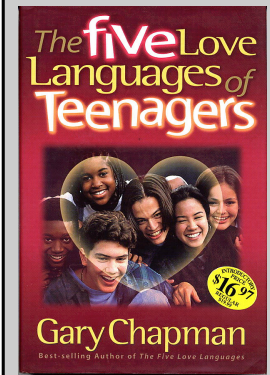
Relationship Breakers

- Un-kept promises become lies.
- Too tough and not understanding.
- Public put-downs and shaming.
- Divided Parents – not supporting each other in front of the children.
- Ignoring the “good” child.
- Not spending ONE on ONE time with each child.
- Not taking care of their needs.
- Not helping deal with their fears.
- Showing favoritism to certain children.
- Always busy with house stuff—no “tea time” with them.
- Private Music, Private TV, and Private Internet in the children's bedrooms are foolish.

*Forgiveness must be sought
Bitterness results from ignoring hurts*



Children are treasure chests from which we can draw joy and love.



Learn each other's love language



Broken things are easier to replace than broken relationships.



Practical Parenting

The rest of the notes are available
at live presentations.