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Children: Our Heritage (1)

Introduction: “THE IDEAL PARENT”

1. ALWAYS HAS A SOLUTION TO WHATEVER PROBLEM ARISES AS WELL AS THE MEANS AND ABILITY TO APPLY THAT SOLUTION.

2. IS ACUTELY AWARE OF EACH CHILD'S NEED, JUGGLING THEIR SCHEDULE TO MEET THOSE NEEDS AND PRIORITIZING THEIR TIME SO AS TO HAVE A PROPER BALANCE OF WORK, REST AND PLAYTIME.

3. THE ABILITY TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE ALWAYS SUPPORTING ADVICE, COUNSEL, AND DISCIPLINE WITH APPROPRIATE ACTIONS.

4. IS AFFABLE AT ALL TIMES,. NEVER SELFISH, AND NEVER ALLOWS EMOTIONS OR MOOD SWINGS TO AFFECT STABILITY OF HOME OR ABILITY TO PARENT EFFECTIVELY.

5. DISCIPLINES CONSISTENTLY AND ALWAYS BY BIBLICAL STANDARDS

6. NEVER BREAKS A PROMISE

7. NEVER MAKES A MISTAKE.

**These seven qualities of the ideal parent are only found in _____
_____!**

God is the ultimate _____.

**The only complete manual for effective parenting is the
_____.**

**The only dependable counselor in whom we should have complete
dependence upon is the _____.**

God's parenting is _____.

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD I SHALL NOT WANT - Part I

PSALM 23

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD I SHALL NOT WANT.

HE MAKES ME LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES;

HE LEADS ME BESIDE QUIET WATERS.

PROVISION

HE RESTORES MY SOUL;

***HE GUIDES ME IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR
HIS NAME'S SAKE.***

***EVEN THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE
SHADOW OF DEATH, I FEAR NO EVIL;***

PROTECTION

FOR THOU ART WITH ME;

THY ROD AND THY STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME.

***THOU DOST PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE
OF MY ENEMIES; THOU HAST ANOINTED MY HEAD WITH OIL;***

PREPARATION

MY CUP OVERFLOWS

SURELY GOODNESS AND LOVINGKINDNESS WILL FOLLOW ME

ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE,

AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER.

The 3 P's of parenting are: _____, _____ and _____.

EXCESSIVE: *exceeding the usual proper limit or degree, unreasonable*

When basic needs are not met it will cause _____.

deficiencies-----> excessive behavior

“BUT SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS; AND

_____ ***SHALL BE ADDED TO YOU.” -***
Matt.6:33 (New American Standard)

John chapters 13-17 contain Christ's words to his followers before He would depart and leave them.

How did Jesus give example of the 3 P's of parenting in these chapters?

Site specific passages throughout this bible text and describe in your own words which of the 3 P's are being demonstrated by Christ. (Try to find at least 10 examples)

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD (2)

I SHALL NOT WANT - Part II

Sheep and Shepherds

- 1. The job of a shepherd is to make sure the pastures are _____ and _____.**
- 2. Sheep get restless. Sheep that do not have green pastures or fresh water are prone to _____.**
- 3. A sheep that feels threatened or unsafe will be in danger of straying. (Jeremiah 23:3-4)**
- 4. Similarly, a child who doesn't have its basic needs met will be in a constant condition of _____ or _____.**
- 5. Our job as a parent is to discern the root causes to our children's excessive behavior and evaluate where the deficiency may be.**
- 6. We trust the Holy Spirit, our counselor, to help us in evaluating.**
- 7. There are _____ major areas of focus to consider in evaluating our child's needs.**

I. SPIRITUAL

What is their spiritual _____?

Is their environment _____ or _____ their spirit?

(movies, books, peers, music, fellowship, T.V., atmosphere of home)

Suggestions:

1. Children need a steady diet of the _____. (devotion books, character studies, Bible reading, Christian movies and C.D.'s)
2. Teaching our children about the plight of others can be a very rewarding investment. Have a map of the world around and do a craft project making maps of different countries where others might be experiencing hunger and deprivation. Hang the maps on the fridge as a reminder to pray for that nation. Subscribe to the children's edition of "Voice of the Martyrs" entitled "Kids of Courage" to find projects they can do for others.
3. Make sure that you and your children are active and consistent in a healthy and caring body of believers.

II. EMOTIONAL

Don't ever assume that what your child is asking for is what he or she really _____.

ÿ Walking your children through challenges, not eliminating them is essential for their emotional maturity. (Psalm 23:4)

ÿ Spend quality time each day with your child/children.

Suggestions:

1. Find out what is special to each child. Give them time to express their

needs and teach them how to express their needs in an appropriate way.

2. A visit to the local library can be turned into an inexpensive date with your children. Having their own library card can help them learn good stewardship principles as they check out books. You can set designated reading times to connect with your child using the books he/she checked out.

3. Find other free activities that you can enjoy. Most libraries have newspapers that will inform the public of events in their community.

4. Children love to do things with their family. Even cleaning time can be made into a family activity. There are inexpensive craft projects available. Make cards and take them to a local nursing home.

III. PHYSICAL

What are you _____ your children?

ÿ Avoid processed /fast food as much as possible. More processing means less vitamins. Learn to read _____.

ÿ Clothing should be clean, and "in style" without compromising convictions.

Suggestions:

1. Clothing can be traded with friends or at a good second hand shop if there is a financial burden - prayer works great!

2. Have at least one home cooked meal together daily. Let everyone

participate in clean-up. Having a “chopping” day helps, too. Set aside an hour a week cleaning and/or chopping veggies for the coming week. Chopped veggies keep well and stay crisp in a closed bowl of water in the fridge. Grill some chicken patties and individually wrap in freezer for salads, alfredo or sandwiches. Beans freeze well and can be made in a crock pot weekly and placed in portions to be frozen.

3. Vitamins at Trader Joes are inexpensive.

***"FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE WILL YOUR
_____ BE ALSO." - Matthew 6:21 (KJV)***

ÿ **Making "investments" into your child's life - spirit, soul and body - creates a wonderful bond between parent and child.**

ÿ **Find a balance in meeting your child's _____. Discern between their _____ and their _____.**

Give into constant demands -----> create dependent immature spirit

Don't meet basic needs -----> nurture independent spirit (false sense of security)

Basic needs met-----> security (Psalm 16:5,6)

Ezekiel 34:15)

***LORD, YOU HAVE ASSIGNED ME MY PORTION AND MY CUP;
YOU HAVE MADE MY LOT SECURE.
THE BOUNDARY LINES HAVE FALLEN FOR ME IN PLEASANT
PLACES;
SURELY I HAVE A DELIGHTFUL INHERITANCE.***
Psalm 16:5-6 (NIV)

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CHILDREN ARE?(3)

***"THE ROD AND REPROOF GIVE WISDOM: BUT A CHILD
BRINGETH HIS MOTHER TO
SHAME." - Proverbs 29:15 (KJV)***

Read story of the Cowbird in Bill Gothard's

CHARACTER SKETCH - VOL. II pg 130.

"The cowbird succeeds in shirking its responsibilities and in the process fails its young. While the negligent _____ abandons its egg to enjoy a carefree life with others of its kind the embryonic life of the one she was serving was _____."

Our society has become good at shirking our responsibilities. Crime among young children is on the _____.

Don't drop off your responsibility when you drop off your child:

ÿ Pray with them

ÿ Stay informed

Is your discipline consistent? (phone, visits, public vs. private)

Young children have a lower nature that constantly needs to be tempered until that child has matured in Christ. They will usually, when given opportunity, make a choice that can bring danger or harm.

Leaving child to himself can trick them into believing that there are times when we will not face _____ for our sinful behavior.

Eli - The Old Testament example of a father that did not "watch" over his sons. (I Sam.2:12-17, I Sam. 2: 22-24)

Failing to discipline, or disciplining with wrong motives or in harsh and

unreasonable ways

_____ the image of God to our children.

Result of Eli's unfaithfulness in parenting: DEATH (I Sam. 2: 27-36, I Sam. 4: 17-21)

"THE WAGES OF SIN IS _____." - Romans 6:23a (KJV)

Read Proverbs 5:22-23 Children will die for lack of _____."

**THY ROD AND THY STAFF THEY COMFORT ME
"NOW NO CHASTENING SEEMS TO BE JOYFUL FOR THE
PRESENT, BUT PAINFUL; NEVERTHELESS, AFTERWARD IT
YIELDS THE PEACEABLE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS TO THOSE
WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY IT." - Hebrews 12:11 (New King James
Version)**

Two essential elements characteristic of effective discipline:

1. It brings pain

2. It brings righteousness ---> peace -----> assurance

(Isa.32:17) for child (Proverbs 29:17) for you

The rod and staff of the shepherd is used to _____ and

_____.

Hebrews 12: 13 Those "turned out of the way" must be directed back. (Ex: Jacob)

**"DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IF ANOTHER BELIEVER IS
OVERCOME BY SOME SIN, YOU WHO ARE GODLY SHOULD
GENTLY AND HUMBLY HELP THAT PERSON BACK ONTO THE
RIGHT PATH. AND BE CAREFUL NOT TO FALL INTO THE SAME
TEMPTATION YOURSELF. - Galatians 6:1 (NLB)**

**"BRETHREN, IF A MAN BE OVERTAKEN IN A FAULT, YE WHICH
ARE SPIRITUAL, *RESTORE SUCH AN ONE IN THE SPIRIT OF**

MEEKNESS; CONSIDERING THYSELF, LEST THOU ALSO BE TEMPTED. - Galatians (KJV)

Contrast this with the story in ***II Chronicles 28:5-11***. The kingdom of Judah was delivered by God into the hands of the King of Israel (Pekah), to discipline them for their idolatry. He carried out the discipline with _____ and therefore, God's wrath was upon him. .

***Restore** - Strong's Concordance definition (katartizo) *to complete thoroughly, repair, adjust, fit, frame, join together*

James 1:20 - man's anger doesn't produce God's _____. Harsh discipline can breed mere compliance and/or internalized anger.

TRANSITION FROM LAW TO GRACE

The law is the _____ to lead us to Christ. (Gal. 3:23-26)

The law is used externally for sinners. (I Timothy 1:9)

The law shows us how _____ we are. (Ro. 3:20)

The greatest misuse of the law is when we use the law to _____ ourselves. (the rich man - Matthew 19:16-22)

Goal for discipline is to make _____ !

Deut. 6:5-7 "show and tell" _____ *Romans 6:16-18* obey "from the heart"

Job 42:5 - "hear and see"

"NOW THE END OF THE COMMANDMENT IS CHARITY OUT OF A PURE HEART, AND OF A GOOD CONSCIENCE, AND OF FAITH

****UNFEIGNED...*** - I Timothy 1:5 (KJV)

****genuine, sincere***

"BUT IT IS GOOD TO BE ZEALOUS IN A GOOD THING ALWAYS, AND NOT ONLY WHEN I AM PRESENT WITH YOU. MY LITTLE CHILDREN, FOR WHOM I LABOR IN BIRTH AGAIN UNTIL CHRIST IS FORMED IN YOU," - Galatians 4:18-19 (NKJV)

"FOOLISHNESS IS BOUND IN THE HEART OF A CHILD; BUT THE ROD OF CORRECTION SHALL DRIVE IT FAR FROM HIM." -

Proverbs 22:15 (KJV)

Purpose - associate pain with sin. In the case of a young child, we are helping them to identify selfish and sinful behavior through the pain it causes.

When do we apply "the rod"? *Proverbs 26:3*

What defines a fool? *Matt 7: 24-27* A fool hears, but doesn't

_____.

Read the Proverbs. List the benefits of wisdom and the consequences of folly. This exercise can be done over time. Try reading a Proverb a day and add to your list daily. This study will encourage you to be faithful and consistent in your discipline.

IS THAT YOU, GOD? (4)

God's sheep will _____ Him because they know His
_____. (Jon.10:1-5)

**TALK TO GOD ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN. TALK TO YOUR
CHILDREN ABOUT GOD.**

This balance can very easily get upset. We can spend lots of time talking to our children about God. This can get very "preachy" if we don't talk to God about what He wants us to tell them. To effectively teach our children about God we must effectively listen to what God is saying.

Children respond to what is _____ to them.

In Judges 2:6-12 the nation went astray. This can be traced back to the failure of the older generation to pass on the mighty acts of God to the younger generation. A generation arose that did not _____ God.

THREE OBSTACLES TO HEARING GOD'S VOICE

1. NOISE - constant clutter with the three most common distractions. (T.V. music and phone\computer.) How much time do we spend with these noisemakers???? How much time do our children spend with these things?

Noise is a _____ to the voice of God.

"Be _____ and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

SOLUTION: TEACH A DAILY QUIET TIME

2. NEGATIVE CIRCUMSTANCES

NEGATIVE CIRCUMSTANCES----->
DOUBT----->UNBELIEF

Gideon doubted that God would even speak to him because of the negative condition of his life and family.

Judges 6:1-17

God wants us to respond to His voice rather than a voice of _____ and _____.

SOLUTION: Teach our children to be diligent seekers of God. (Heb.11:6) If they have already failed remind them of Isa. 30:18-21. Cry out to God and wait. Raise them on the altar of God. Teach them to always be on that journey growing nearer to Him. (Psalm 84)

3. IGNORING GOD'S VOICE

Eli ignored God's warnings concerning his sons. Why would they take God seriously if their Dad wasn't?

"They hearkened not to the _____ of their father." - I Sam. 2:25

When we do not follow through with consequences with our children, they will get used to ignoring our voice and God's voice.

NO CHARACTER = NO STRENGTH = NO RESPONSE

Eli had poor character which affected his strength when he finally tried to discipline. The result is that they _____ their Dad.

SOLUTION: The best way to get our children to hear and follow God is by setting the example in our own lives.

The shepherd concept that Jesus modeled is again our best example.

Jesus led by example. He did what the Father told Him to do. (John 5:19)

The shepherd gives his life, the hired hand is concerned about pay. My sheep know me as I know the Father. (John 10:11-15 God's Word Translation)

The devil's voice is similar to a _____.

The devil's PROMISE always involves our comPROMISE.

IS THE BOOGEY MAN REAL? (5)

What are the dangers that our society presents to children?

1. There has been a drastic increase in children raised in a single parent home. This can put our children at grave risk - emotional needs are difficult for one parent to meet. A child who has a deficiency in the area of emotional development can be at risk for various dangers:

gang behavior, peer pressure, addictive behaviors, violence and related criminal behaviors, prey to pedophiles, sexual promiscuity, etc.

(www.heritage.org for statistical information)

2. Schools and educational facilities have become the primary influence for young children. In many cases the parents defer the day to day care and training of children to institutions that may or may not represent the values you want your children to live by. (moral values, sex education, life skills, independent living, domestic skills)

3. The increase in readily available pornographic materials and encounters through the net and various influences in the media increases their risk to exposures that can be life threatening:

STD's, promiscuity, unhealthy dating relationships that are shallow, breakups that can desensitize children to the pain of divorce, emotional immaturity

4. Our high speed, fast food mentality is in general conducive to poor health: stress and anxiety can lead to heart disease and strokes, poor eating habits and our "toxic" society has lead to an increase in cancers and other diseases that can debilitate and cause untimely deaths

There are many other risk factors not listed here. **What are some of the challenges that you see in society that can present a danger to our children?**

List them here:

One of the three P's of parenting is preparation. We are responsible to train our children to be prepared for the various temptations that our society presents to them. (**I Cor.10:13**)

In **Genesis 13:5-13**, Lot and Abraham separate and Lot makes a choice that brings great cost to his family. Genesis 19 explains the price Lot paid for that decision: death for his wife, death for his sons-in-law, perversion for his daughters.

The bible describes generational iniquity that is passed down to our children. (**Numbers 14:18**, EX: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all struggled with honesty) This is something we can prepare our children for by "knowing our sheep" as the shepherd knew the condition of his and preparing them for life's experiences. We can share our common weaknesses and at appropriate opportunities share our personal struggles such as past drug involvement, etc. in order to become affable should our children be faced with the same struggles.

In sharing make sure the baggage isn't too heavy to carry! Sensitivity is important as you relate to your children in their various struggles.

Deuteronomy 7 describes the land flowing with milk and honey that God's people were to possess. There were various battles they would face before

they could inherit this blessing. Our children will have to face various struggles in order to receive the blessings God has for them. We must teach our children to fight the good fight of faith (**I Timothy 6:12**) that they may win the battle over temptation in our culture and walk in the blessings and promises of God. When we face the "giants" in our life and overcome, we are giving our children an example to walk in that will bring freedom to their lives.

Some of the last words Jesus spoke to his disciples included preparing them for the struggles they would face. We can take comfort in these words as we prepare our children for a future filled with hope:

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." - John 17:33

Psalm 78:70-72- David was devoted to his task, our commitment to God will result in success as a parent.

Appendix A

CHARACTERISTICS OF SHEEP

1. timid, fearful, easily panicked
2. dumb stupid, gullible
3. very vulnerable to fear, frustration, pests, hunger
4. easily influenced by a leader, by the shepherd
5. stampede easily, vulnerable to mob psychology
6. little or no means of self-defense; can only run
7. easily killed by enemies
8. the shepherd is most effective, calming influence
9. jealous, competitive for dominance
10. constantly need fresh water, fresh pasture
11. have very little discernment in choosing food or water
12. best water source is early morning dew
13. perverse, stubborn - will insist on their own way , even eating poisonous plants or drinking dirty water
14. easily "cast" - flipped over on their back, unable to right themselves

will die of starvation if not turned over by shepherd; helpless

15. frequently look for easy places to rest

16. don't like to be sheared, cleaned

17. too much wool can cause sheep to be easily "cast"

18. creatures of habit; get into "ruts"

19. need the most care of all livestock

20. need to be "on the move"; need a pre-determined plan, pattern of grazing

21. totally dependent of shepherd for every need

22. need "rod and staff" guidance

Source: wiki.answers.com

Appendix B

PARENTING STYLES

THE PERMISSIVE PARENT:

THE OVERPROTECTIVE PARENT:

THE BRIBING PARENT:

THE THREATENING/REPEATING PARENT:

THE ABSENT/SUBSTITUTE PARENT:

THE MANIPULATING PARENT:

THE UNAPPROACHABLE/DISOURAGING PARENT:

THE CHILD-CENTERED PARENT:

Parenting gives us the marvelous opportunity to _____
_____ our own lives.

What are my strengths?

What are my weaknesses?

What values do I want to communicate and demonstrate to my child?

Parenting Style Quiz

http://www.activeparenting.com/Parents-Parenting_Style_Quiz

**Under the heading of this page you will see the words: It may surprise you!
Jump to quiz. Click on there and take the quiz. Bring results to class.**

Appendix C

ARE YOU RAISING CAIN?

Dr. C. Thomas Anderson

A Basis Character-Building Program to Start Today

A basic character-building program, we as parents should start in our home for our children, consists of the following:

1. Start the day with prayer and Bible reading; use workbook activities to keep them excited.
2. Memory verse—you can use a five or ten cent incentive for each memory verse they learn.
3. Brush teeth, comb hair, wash up (bath) and change of underwear.
4. Get dressed.
5. Clean their room:
 - a. Make bed.
 - b. Pick up clothes and be sure everything is put away and room is clean.
6. Greet everyone with a smile and “Good Morning”.
7. Always ask to be excused from the table and remove their place setting.
8. Say “please” and “thank you.”
9. Think of the good, beautiful and lovely things.
10. Spend the day being kind, helping others, and praising and thanking

God for the day.

11. When they come home from school—Mom, come out of your world and go into theirs and enjoy them for half an hour (or more if you have the time).
12. Change their clothes and hang them up.
13. Do their chores—garbage, shoveling snow, mowing, helping in kitchen, or helping Dad.
14. After supper, do homework and Dad go into their world and enjoy your children. Play a game, whatever God leads.

You, as a parent, should also teach your children:

1. Boys stand up when a girl enters the room.
2. Boys take off hats when entering any building.
3. Girls practice sitting, standing, walking in a graceful, proper manner.
4. Boys hold doors for girls at every opportunity.
5. Girls say “thank you” when boys hold door.
6. Address adults as Mr. or Mrs. Or “Yes, Ma’am”, “No, Ma’am”, “Yes, Sir”, or “No, Sir.”
7. Stand straight and tall and smile.
8. Boys practice a firm handshake.