

Introduction: These are difficult days in which to raise children

Children are a gift from the Lord...

Psalm 127:3 (NLT)

- Your child's world is . . .
- A parent's challenge is . . .
- The question we're all asking is . . .

Four principles for positive parenting

1. Effective parenting begins with positive

_____ - _____ !

Fathers, don't over-correct your children or make it difficult for them to obey the commandment. Bring them up with Christian teaching in Christian discipline.

Ephesians 6:4 (Phillips)

- The principle of focus
- God's Dream vs. The human dream for your child

2. Effective parenting demands we _____ what we _____.

¹⁴I am not writing this to shame you but to warn you as my dear children. ¹⁵Even though you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. ¹⁶Therefore I urge you to imitate me.

1 Corinthians 4:14-16 (NIV)

- The principle of modeling
- “More is caught than taught”

3. Effective parents build relationships that _____.

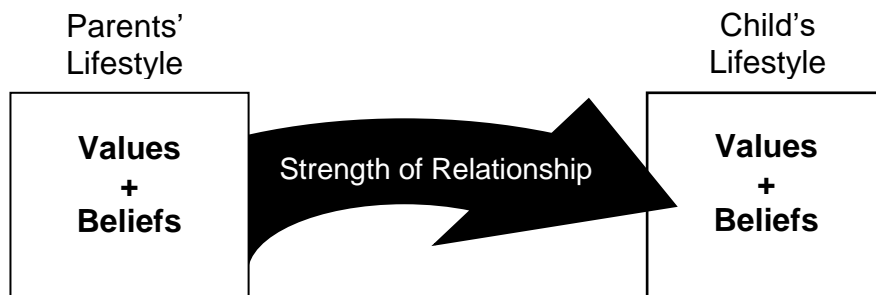
⁷ Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, ⁸ so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 (NIV)

¹¹For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹²encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into His Kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 (NIV)

- The principle of relationship



8 “Keys” that build relationships that bond

1. _____ love
2. Scheduled _____
3. _____ attention
4. _____ contact
5. _____ communication
6. Meaningful _____
7. Have _____ together
8. _____ together often

4. Effective parenting requires _____ and _____.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

- The principle of process
- 5 magic words = _____! and _____!
- It's never too late!

Discussion Questions:

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how positive of a parent are you?
2. Discuss which point was most helpful to you. Why?
3. Where do you need to focus some parenting energy? What specifically will the next step look like?