

The five Cs we wanted for our kids:

1. CONFIDENCE

They would feel good about themselves and they would know who they are because of whose they are.

2. CHARACTER

They would have a moral compass of values - making decisions of integrity, informed by an understanding of right and wrong.

3. CONVICTION

They would have beliefs grounded on biblical truth, internalized to the point of intentional action.

4. COMPASSION

They would be secure enough to focus on others and their needs.

5. COMPETENCE

They would be able to function and thrive knowing they have God-given gifts. Having developed some skills, that they would become effective contributors to the world around them.

Ten Actions Kids Need from Caring Adults

#1: Strong BELIEF – In your role as a parent (or adult of influence).

- When you welcome a child, you WELCOME GOD.

Jesus took a little child whom He placed among them. Taking the child in His arms, He said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes Me..." Mark 9:36-37

- Children are a GIFT and a REWARD from the Lord.

*Behold, children are a gift of the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior so are the children of one's youth.
How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them...* Psalm 127:3-5a

- God gives children to be VALUED and STEWARDED on His behalf.

#2: Ongoing AFFECTION – Affection must be provided consistently and appropriately.

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:10

- When children are:
 - Young - they hug easily ... POUR IT ON and enjoy it while it lasts.
 - Older - they tend to resist... POUR IT ON and don't become passive aggressive.
- An unaffectionate father will produce:
 - Boys who don't know how to express themselves emotionally.
 - Girls who will express themselves sexually.

#3: Encouraging WORDS – Children are starving for the fuel of encouragement.

- Children NEVER OUTGROW their need for encouraging words.

Thoughtless words cut deeply like a thrusting sword. But the speech of the wise is a healing balm.

Proverbs 12:18

- Words have the ability to SHAPE a child's life for the positive or the negative.
 - When you see something positive, say it!
 - If you're constantly on their case about stuff, you are conditioning them to avoid you.
- Key: Don't EXPECT encouragement back and you won't be disappointed.
- A lot of language directed at kids is either:
 - Shame oriented
 - Performance oriented
- So when they hit a homerun or they strike out, the encouragement is the SAME:
"I love watching you play!"

Encourage toward those five Cs:

- Confidence: “I thought you were very brave... diving in when you were scared.”
- Character: “I’m amazed at how patient you are with your little brother.”
- Compassion: “I noticed that mom didn’t want to get up from the couch and you got the remote for her. I love seeing you serve other people.”
- Conviction: “I was really proud of the way you spoke up about what’s important to you.”
- Competence: “I can see the progress you’re making. Your hard work is showing.”

The words of the wicked are like a murderous ambush. But the words of the godly save lives. Proverbs 12:6

A good person produces good words from a good heart and an evil person produces evil words from an evil heart. Matthew 12:35

My story...

- When Jesus changed my heart, my parenting changed.
- The best help will come up short if you don’t understand how God sees you... because you wind up parenting from –
 - a wounded heart
 - a broken heart
 - a wrong identity

Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children. Ephesians 5:1

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#4: Serious FUN – Fun and play RELEASE their anxiety, help diminish their fears, and lessen their hostility and anger.

- Lighten up and SCHEDULE some fun.

A cheerful heart is good medicine. But a broken spirit saps a person's strength.

Proverbs 17:22

A glad heart makes a happy face.

Proverbs 15:13

#5: Delicate DISCIPLINE – Biblical discipline is GUIDANCE with love, not PUNISHMENT in anger.

- Discipline is an act of LOVE.

My child, don't reject the Lord's discipline and don't be upset when He corrects you. For the Lord corrects those He loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.

Proverbs 3:11-12

To discipline a child produces wisdom, but a mother is disgraced by an undisciplined child.

Proverbs 29:15

Warnings:

First, learn to discipline and not be ANGRY.

- Scolding and nagging, make them angry and resentful.

Rather, bring them up in the loving discipline the Lord Himself approves with suggestions and godly advice.

Ephesians 6:4

- Angry discipline **RESULTS** in: humiliation, embarrassment, and violence
- Angry discipline **PRODUCES**: angry kids
- When discipline is done in anger, children don't hear your words, they **SENSE** your **SPIRIT**.

Perfect love casts out fear.

1 John 4:18

Second, be WISE ... "Think it through."

- Wisdom says:
 - 1) Regardless of the situation, I am going to **STAY CALM** or find a way to **GET CALM**.
 - 2) I am going to work hard to **MAKE SENSE**.
 - 3) I am going to bring discipline regardless of their **RESPONSE**.
- **Discipline by choice** is a **FAIR** consequence clearly communicated ahead of time connected to the offense. **"NO SURPRISES."**

#6: Activated RESPONSIBILITY – It must be **TAUGHT** and it must be **MODELED**.

Question: How do I know if my kid is irresponsible? **Answer:** A,B,Cs

A – APATHY

B – BLAME

C – "CARE-for-me" mentality

- We must **ALLOW** our kids to experience some of the **PAIN** that goes with poor choices.
- Help them:
 - Move from infantile **DEPENDENCE** to healthy **INDEPENDENCE**.
 - Understand there is a **RELATIONSHIP** between what they do and what happens to them.
- Consequences **BUILD** self-esteem.

When kids realize that their behavior has consequences, they learn:
“I have power and I have control.”

A prudent person foresees the danger ahead and takes precaution.

The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.

Proverbs 27:12

Responsibility begins to be formed when children are little and you **FOLLOW THROUGH** on the consequences connected to the boundaries. Otherwise, they don't learn anything about **BOUNDARIES**.

- God's **LOVE** is infinite.

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children.

Ephesians 5:1

- People who know that they are dearly **LOVED** are able to **LOVE** dearly.

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#5: Delicate **DISCIPLINE** – Biblical discipline is guidance with love, not punishment in anger.

#6: Activated **RESPONSIBILITY** – It must be taught and it must be modeled.

#7: **Positive MEMORIES** – Memories make up the foundation of who we are.

- Parents have **INFLUENCE** over memories being positive or negative.

Only be careful and watch yourself closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. Deuteronomy 4:9

- Make up **TRADITIONS**
- Create **ADVENTURES**

#8: **Consistent PRESENCE** – “T-I-M-E”

- It’s a challenge to our **PRIORITIES**.
- Children would rather have your presence than your presents.

The Word became human and made His home among us. John 1:14

I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources, He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit. Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Ephesians 3:16

- Do your kids believe you are **AVAILABLE**?
- Are they experiencing “perceived inaccessibility”? Get off the phone!
- To be a good parent is to **SACRIFICE** personal comfort.
- Presence communicates: “**YOU** are really important to me. **YOU** are valuable. I care deeply about **YOU**.”

#9: **Role MODELS**



Parents:

- There is identity **THEFT** happening in your home.
 - Your kids are **STEALING** your identity.
 - Kids possess the **CHARACTER** of their parents.
- So the question becomes: What does that identity look like?
- When you blow it, **APOLOGIZE**. Well, why would I apologize? –
- Because apologizing is an act of **INTEGRITY** - model honesty and humility.
- For those who have faith in Jesus, your kids need to **SEE** that faith in **ACTION**.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your heart. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home, when you walk along the road, when you lie down, and when you get up.”

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

- Kids need to see:
 - Parents who are doing their best to **ALIGN** their life with the teachings of Jesus.
 - Parents who love Jesus and have a desire to **FOLLOW** Him.

Other adults:

- Family, Friends, Neighbors... Lives **IMPACT** other lives.
- The Church family... cares for one another and **INVESTS** in your kids.

#10: A **PEACEFUL Home**

- Why peace? Because: Kids are in **COMBAT** all day long.
 - Painful **BATTLES** with bullies, pressure, conformity, body-image.

If kids know they can come home to a house that's safe, it helps them withstand some of the pressures, the stress, the comparisons, the put-downs, and the temptations.

- Defining a **PEACEFUL** home:
 - Where there is **DISCIPLINE**, but not a lot of yelling.
 - Where there are **BOUNDARIES**, but not a lot of rules.
 - Where parents are **WELCOMING** to friends.
 - Where parents are **GENEROUS** with encouraging words and affection.
 - Where the marriage is **HEALTHY**.
 - Where they're **FREE** from comparison with their siblings.
 - Where they can be **THEMSELVES** and don't have to pretend.
- To provide a **PEACEFUL** home, you must first experience peace for yourself.
 - If you want a peace-filled home, become a peace-filled person.
 - Parenting out of insecurity, creates an insecure, shame-filled home.
- God's peace is **PERFECT** peace.

Through Jesus, God reconciled everything to Himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

And now I don't have to be at war.

Colossians 1:20

Letting the Holy Spirit control your mind, leads to life and peace.

Romans 8:6

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children.

Ephesians 5:1

- When you know you are deeply **LOVED** by God and that becomes your identity, you can deeply **LOVE** others.