

Love-O-LUTION

Getting better at loving: Our Kids

Deuteronomy 6:5-9 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

**Don't give your kids to your Church,
Give your Church to your kids. Be the Church!**

Christian Parenting Goal: to create _____,
independently functioning, adults

Psalm 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

Ephesians 5:31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

5 things Parents need to get better at loving Kids

1) _____
a. with God Deut. 6:5
b. with family
Rules without relationship= _____
Relationship without rules= _____
Rules with relationship= _____ (Godly placed and ordained)

2) _____ Deut. 6:7

3) _____ (discipline)

Proverbs 13:24 Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them.

Proverbs 19:18 Discipline your children while there is hope. If you don't, you will ruin their lives.

4) _____

5) _____ on the long term

Five things parents need to model and teach:

1. How to have a healthy growing relationship with ____:

2. How to have A healthy relationship with _____

3. How to face the _____ of life

Galatians 6:4-5 Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, ⁵ for each one should carry his own load.

4. How to face the _____ of life

5. _____ and responding to discipline:

a) Discipline is _____ driven by love.

Proverbs 3:12 because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

b) Discipline isn't something you do _____ your child, but _____ your child

Hebrews 12:9-11 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! ¹⁰ Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

"A child who has not been disciplined with love by his little world will be disciplined without love by the great big world."

What is one thing I need to do, starting today, to get better at loving kids: _____

Apologies? Point them to God? Discipline?

Exasperators (more next week)

1. Never admit you are wrong.

Rather, tell your children you have made a mistake and ask their forgiveness and God's if you sin in your actions or attitudes.

2. Model hypocrisy (say one thing, do another)

3. Fail to keep promises.

Be cautious with your words. You may not think you are making a promise, but your children may interpret your words or actions as promises.

4. Demand too much of them.

Don't expect them to act like adults. Be reasonable in your expectations of their actions, attitudes and how much responsibility you expect of them. Try timing your workflow to see if what you are asking is even possible (if you tend towards overloading the schedule).

5. Over protect them.

Don't bail them out of problems - let them learn the hard way now. The cost will be less now than later in life when you aren't there to pick them up.

6. Batter them with words.

Use your words sparingly! Be consistent and let your yes be yes, your no be no, and your words be solid in action.

7. Abuse them verbally.

Never call names, add explanation marks to their names or predict failure. Find ways to compliment and praise them instead. Tell them all the things they do well - not a list of their shortcomings.

8. Make discipline too severe.

9. Show favouritism.

Don't compare children in their achievements, abilities or grades. They are each unique gifts from God.

10. Embarrass them. Be careful and cautious with how you speak about them to others - especially when they are present.

Talk it Over

"Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see." ~ Neil Postman

1. Share a time when you witnessed really great parenting.
2. Think about your own parents. What's one way that they influenced you? What's one word that would describe their parenting style?
3. What is the ultimate goal of parenting? What other things does our culture suggest it could be? What is the result if these things become our goal as parents?
4. Why are the five essentials so important in child-rearing? Discuss the impact of relationships, boundaries, discipline, consistency, and focussing on the long-term.
5. How can parents display and encourage a good relationship with God and His people? With their own family? What are the potential results if they fail to do this?
6. What are parents really teaching their children when they model authority? (good or bad!)
7. How do parental expectations impact children's behaviour?
8. Read Ephesians 5:31. What is the end result of every parenting experience? How can parents prepare themselves for this inevitability?
9. Think about an adult other than your parents who had a big impact on your life. How can we love other people's kids?
10. How can we as a church family love the kids in our church family?
11. Why is it so crucial that we guide the children in our lives toward godliness?

"...but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." ~ Matthew 19:14



Love-O-LUTION!

Getting Better at Loving: Our God