

Parenting – 4 Things

Psalm 127:3–5 ³ Children are a heritage (unearned gift) from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. ⁴ Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. ⁵ Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

They are a blessing.

- I love my three girls deeply.
- ...

1. Love and Acceptance

Fight for the relationship & emotional connection.

- They belong
- They are unconditionally loved.

1 Peter 4:8 ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Covers is sometimes used in the OT to mean (atone for, forgive or appease).

- This can go both ways.
- Your love for them “atoning” for their sins.
- And your love for them “atoning” for their side for your sins.

- They are playful with me and love spending time with me.
- They miss me when I am not around.
- They care about deep feelings, both mine and theirs.
- They are proud of me even with my flaws.
- They think I am special.
- They talk to me in a respectful way.
- They are honest with me.
- They believe in me and guide me.

- Lots of time, interested listening to.
- Learn their love language.
- Do what they like to do.
- Have dinner together as a family (I fight for this).

Psalm 103:10–14 ¹⁰ ... he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; ¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

Empathy with boundaries.

- Example

2. Help them to Know God

John 17:3 ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

Philippians 3:4–8 ⁴ ...If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ..."

The 1st and foremost thing is that they see this heart in you.

- Not a Pharisee, but a lover of God.

See you repent, grow, seek input in your life.

Teach ...

- God is Sovereign.
- God is love. They are loved by God.
- We are by nature sinful (sinful heart) and we need a savior.
- ...

Age appropriate teaching ...

- Children's bible's (examples)
- Devo's/ acting it out.
- Scripture around the dinner table.

3. Preparing them for Life

The goal is to raise emotionally healthy and autonomous children who will make a positive contribution to their world.

Proverbs 10:4 ⁴ Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth.

Proverbs 15:22 ²² Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

Proverbs 12:15 ¹⁵ The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.

Proverbs 13:20 ²⁰ He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

Jeremiah 17:9 ⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

Proverbs 20:5 ⁵ The purposes of a person's heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out.

Proverbs 25:12 ¹² Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a wise man's rebuke to a listening ear.

4. Keeping them Safe

It is your job to protect them physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Who looks after your kids and who they spend time with is big!