

Home Builder's

Making Marriage Work in a Broken World

Lesson 11: Raising Godly Children in an Ungodly World. Part 3

- I. The Biblical method of communication. (Proverbs 23:13-19, 22-26)
 - A. Communication is dialogue not monologue. (Proverbs 18:13)
 1. We should talk *with* our children not merely *to* our children.
 - a. Our object must be to understand our children, not simply to have our children understand us.
 2. When our children are small, we often meet their trivial conversations with “uh-huh” and little more than a glance—they catch on quickly.
 - B. Focus on understanding.
 1. Since actions spring from the heart, our goal as parents must be to understand what is going on in the hearts of our children.
 - a. Example: you purchase your child a new pair of shoes. You are excited to see their face when you open it, but you're disappointed that the child is unhappy with them. How should you respond?
 - b. When communicating with your child about this issue remember the following:
 - i. This behavior is a reflection of the abundance your child's heart.
 - ii. You want to understand his/her heart.
 - iii. The internal issues of the heart are more important than specific behavior because they drive behavior.
 - c. We must develop the skill of drawing out what is in the hearts of our children.
 - d. God deals with us with understanding, so we should parent with understanding. (Hebrews 4:14-16)
 - C. The following questions can help us diagnose the heart.
 1. What was going on? (A sense of the situation)
 2. What were you thinking and feeling as it happened? (Getting to the heart)
 3. What did you do in response? (Your response is formed by your heart)
 4. Why did you do it? What were you seeking to accomplish? (Motives) (the heart is always thinking and desiring. Bad thoughts and desires = bad actions)
 5. What was the result? (What was the fruit?)
 - D. As our children struggle with sin, we should help them navigate the following:
 1. The nature of temptation.
 2. The possible responses to temptation.
 3. The motives of those responses.
 4. The sinful response he/she chose.
 - II. Types of communication.
 - A. There must be rich communication with our children.
 1. Sometimes, parents reduce parenting to three steps: rules, correction, punishment.
 - a. All three of those are necessary.
 - b. There must be deep communication undergirding each of these steps.
 - B. We must be mindful that different situations call for different kinds of communication. (1 Thessalonians 5:14)
 1. Encouragement—communication designed to inspire and fill with hope.
 - a. There will be times life knocks the wind out of our children. (failure)

- b. Perhaps a child has sinned and is penitent. In this moment, he/she needs to be pointed to Christ, not rebuked.
 - 2. Correction—communication designed to remedy a wrong.
 - a. Correction teaches children to align their lives and behavior with God’s Word.
 - b. A child may need to be confronted about an attitude or habit that is destructive. (Laziness, procrastination, etc.)
 - 3. Rebuke—a stern expression of disapproval of a certain behavior.
 - a. A rebuke shows a child the seriousness of a certain behavior.
 - b. A child who ignores a parent’s instruction not to play in a street may need to receive a rebuke.
 - c. A child who tells their parent a lie may need to receive a rebuke.
 - 4. Entreaty—earnest pleading and urging. (Proverbs 23:26-35)
 - a. This type of communication is reserved for important topics and situations.
 - b. A parent may entreat their children to be wary of a destructive sin such as pornography or a destructive habit such as drugs.
 - 5. Instruction—providing a lesson, insight, information about the world.
 - a. Your children have large gaps in their understanding.
 - b. Instruction provides a framework for them to understand life.
 - c. Give them biblical wisdom.
 - d. Give them practical wisdom.
 - 6. Warning—alerting your child to danger while there is still time to escape.
 - a. A warning is not a threat.
 - b. A warning allows a child to escape danger and receive instruction.
 - c. Proverbs 14:23 and 15:1 are both examples of warnings.
 - d. Warnings should help your children internalize the truth of the Scripture.
 - e. They often help a child understand that their actions have consequences.
 - 7. Teaching—imparting knowledge to your child.
 - a. You must actively impart biblical wisdom and instruction to your children.
 - b. You must teach them how to live.
 - 8. Prayer—communication with God.
 - a. Your children need to learn how to pray.
 - b. Prayer is like a window into someone’s soul.
 - c. You will both learn about your child from their prayers, and you will teach them about how to pray from your prayers.
- C. A situation may call for multiple forms of communication. For example, it would be a bad idea to rebuke without correcting and then encouraging and praying.
 - 1. Your communication with your child will take many forms.
 - 2. Communication is essential in training a child!

Next Week:

Raising Godly Children in an Ungodly World. Part 4
Embracing Biblical Methods