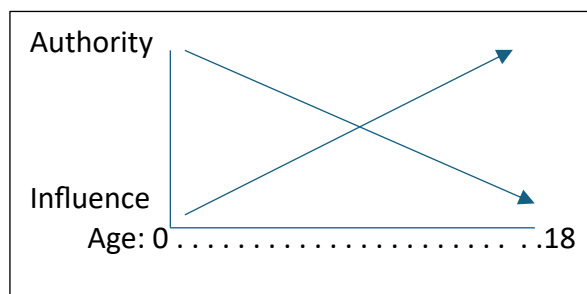


## Home Builder's

### Making Marriage Work in a Broken World

#### Lesson 12: Raising Godly Children in an Ungodly World. Part 4

- I. A life of Communication Deuteronomy 6:6-9
  - A. Communication is discipleship.
    1. Communication not only disciplines a child, it disciplines them as well.
    2. Parents sometime fall into the trap of being too busy to talk unless something is wrong; however, habitual communication prepares the way for talking in strained situations.
    3. You will not have the hearts of your children if you only talk to them when something is wrong.
  - B. Counting the cost of biblical communication.
    1. Children require time.
      - a. With children quantity time is quality time.
    2. Children do not open their hearts and minds on a schedule.
      - a. They ask a question now, make a comment then, etc.
      - b. In those times, you need to talk—this may require dropping what you are doing.
      - c. When your child opens up, you must genuinely listen. (Proverbs 18:2)
    3. Good communication is taxing.
      - a. No one said parenting would be easy.
      - b. You must be willing to answer hard questions.
    4. Good communication requires integrity and vulnerability.
      - a. Your children need to see you repent and ask for forgiveness.
      - b. Your children should learn from you how to find comfort in God.
  - C. The blessing of paying the cost.
    1. A rich parent-child relationship.
      - a. Deep, biblical communication is the soil in which the parent-child relationship grows.
      - b. Establishing a biblical relationship with your children will resolve much of the pressure pulling them away from the home in the teen years.
        - i. As a teen, they are looking for someone who knows, understands, and loves them.
        - ii. Your child should not have to leave the home for that.
        - iii. Often, the draw to wrong crowd is camaraderie (being understood) more than it is the desire to “do something bad”.



*Note: in this chart, influence represents the willingness of a child to place himself under your authority because of trust.*

- c. As a child grows, a parent's ability to exercise authority over them wanes, a parent will need more than just a size advantage when correcting a 17-year-old.

- i. A parent who has never developed a trusting, loving relationship with their children when they are young will struggle when they are old.
    - ii. When your children trust you, your words have weight.
  2. Preparation for relationships.
    - a. Your children will need finely honed communication skills for every relationship they will have.
    - b. Home is the place to develop skills for life.
  3. A well-rounded understanding of life.
    - a. Biblical communication will help your children have a deep understanding of life.
      - i. Life is complicated and hard—your children need your input.
    - b. Well-rounded communication will teach your children about:
      - i. Short vs long term gratification.
      - ii. Temptations
      - iii. Fears
      - iv. Doubts
  4. Help them see God's purpose in their lives.
    - a. Biblical communication will help your children understand their place in God's world.
    - b. They will understand a biblical worldview.
    - c. They will see the centrality of God's grace.

- II. Unbiblical forms of communication
  - A. Yelling
  - B. Harsh/Angry words
  - C. Prideful gloating
  - D. What else would you include?

Application/Discussion:

**Next Week:**

Raising Godly Children in an Ungodly World. Part 5  
Embracing Biblical Methods