

PARENTING IN THE REAL WORLD

Part 3 – Eight Life Skills to Build within Your Child’s Heart (1)

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I. LIFE SKILL # 1: HOW TO **GET ALONG** WITH OTHERS.

A. *Proverbs 20:3* “It is an honor for a person to cease from strife; but every **fool** will be fighting.”

B. Teach your children to prize and be **loyal** to your family.

1. A whole lot of loyalty to parents happens when parents are **balanced** in discipline and affirmation and when those parents give their children the personal time they need throughout their lives.

Ephesians 6:4 “Don't keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Rather, bring them up with **loving discipline....**” (NLT)

2. Time with your child is the most important **investment** you can ever make.
3. Accept each child with the personality and abilities God gave them and parent each child individually without **comparisons**.
4. Your children will one day treat you like they see you treat and talk about their **grandparents**.

They will one day treat their extended family like they see you treat your extended family.

C. Teach your children how to build great **friendships**.

1. Learn to **pick** good friends.

*Proverbs 27:19 "A mirror reflects a man's face. But what he is **really** like is shown by the friends he chooses."*

a. Build friendships with people who sharpen you.

Proverbs 27:17 "Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

b. We **become** like those with whom we spend our time.

2. Learn to **be** a good friend.

a. A good friend cares for that friend when things are going well and when things are **not**.

Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."

b. Real friendship shows itself in putting another's needs ahead of our own.

c. A good friend treats the other person as an **equal**.

d. Real friendship forgives.

D. Teach your children how to heal a **broken** relationship; how to forgive and ask forgiveness.

E. Teach your children how to respect **authority**.

1. **Adults** in the home.

*Ephesians 6:1-3 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "**Honor** your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: ³ "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."*

2. **School** teachers and Bible Fellowship Teachers.

3. Police and civil authorities.

Romans 13:2 "Therefore whoever resists authority (civil authority) has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves." (NASB)

4. Church ministers and church volunteers.

F. Teach your children the proper way to treat people in general.

Luke 6:31 "Do to others as you would have them do to you." (NIV)

1 Peter 2:17 "Show respect for all people [treat them honorably]." (AMP)

II. LIFE SKILL # 2: PROVIDE HEALTHY DISCIPLINE FOR YOUR CHILDREN.

A. The parent's job is to move their kids from parent control where you have to tell them everything they are to do, to eventually, self - control – where they know and do the right thing on their own; to ultimately, God control where they're yielding themselves daily to God who made them.

Kids want rules. Healthy rules, discipline and boundaries give kids a sense of security. Kids thrive in routine.

B. If we don't discipline our kids it means two things:

1. We are willing to participate in their destruction.

Proverbs 19:18 "Correct your children while there is still hope; do not let them destroy themselves."

2. We do not love our children, in the way we should. *Proverbs 13:24 "If you refuse to discipline your son, it proves you don't love him."*

C. What is the right way to discipline?

1. Discipline your children for a mistake of character.

2. Don't correct in anger.

Ephesians 6:4 "Don't keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Rather, bring them up with the loving discipline, with suggestions and godly advice."

3. Avoid disciplining your children in public.

4. Watch your words.

Ephesians 4:29 "Don't use harmful words. Use only helpful words, the kind that built up."

5. Forgive immediately.

Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind and loving to each other, forgiving each other just as God forgave you in Christ."

