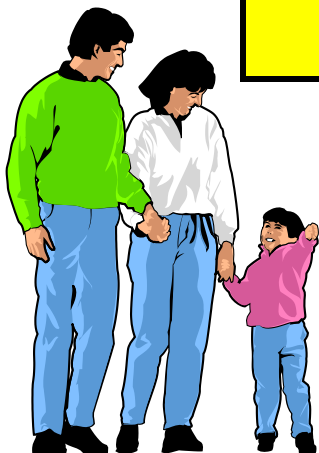


**Building Godly Homes**  
*God's Wisdom for Successful Families*



**Presented by Brent Hunter**

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**Brent Hunter** served as an Associate Professor of Communications and Marriage and Family at Florida College in Temple Terrace, Florida from 1978-1997, and from 1997 until October 2004 served as the college's Director of Development. Brent now lives in Kirkland, WA with his wife Gail, where he has served as the evangelist for the Kirkland church of Christ since September 2013. Brent and Gail were blessed with two children, Allison Sullins of Temple Terrace, FL, and Amy Sims of Indianapolis, IN. They have five grandchildren. Brent worked for twenty-one years as the evangelist for the North Street church in Tampa. Brent has also worked with the Zephyrhills, FL congregation, the Oldham Woods congregation in La Grange, KY, and the Johnson Avenue Church of Christ in El Cajon, CA. Brent combines a high level of training as a minister, counselor, and teacher. Since the early nineties, he has directed his efforts on marriage and family enrichment with a focus on *preventing problems*. He believes that couples who commit themselves to God and to each other, and who are willing to learn to better communicate their love, can experience the fulfillment and intimacy that God intended. Successful parenting is based upon an understanding and the proper application of Biblical concepts. This set of lessons on "Home Improvement" focuses on effective communication and the nature of the spiritual covenant.

**January 31<sup>st</sup> - February 2, 2020**

**Brooksville Church of Christ**

[www.brookvillecoc.com](http://www.brookvillecoc.com)

**352-796-9803**

*Evangelist: Kent Heaton*

# Building Godly Homes

**Friday 7:00 pm Setting Priorities and Living the Balanced Life**

**7:45 pm Honor Father and Mother**

**Saturday 7:00 pm How to Instill Honor in Your Children**

**7:45 pm Having Your Children Under Loving Command**

**Sunday 10:00 am Creative Parenting**

**11:00 am How to Win with the Hand You Have Been Dealt**

**6:00 pm Passing Values Onto The Next Generation.**



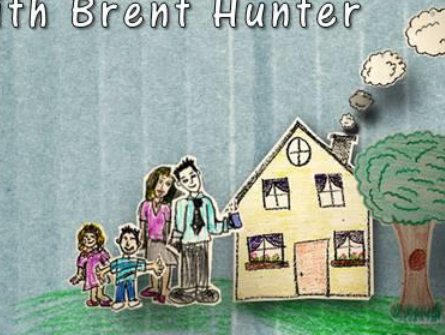
January 31 - February 2 with Brent Hunter

## Brooksville Church of Christ

604 West Fort Dade Avenue

Brooksville, Florida

[www.brookvillecoc.com](http://www.brookvillecoc.com)



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# SETTING PRIORITIES AND LIVING THE BALANCED LIFE

## INTRODUCTION

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- A. Regardless of how long you have been a Christian, I believe achieving proper balance is the most difficult on-going challenge. G. K. Chesterton was right when he said: “Christianity has not been tried and found wanting, it’s been found difficult and therefore rarely tried.”
- B. Jesus dealt with this question of “conflicting loyalties” in **Luke 20:22-26**.
1. He made it clear it was not an “either/or” proposition, but one that fits together like a series of concentric circles. (**Romans 13:7**)
  2. Ideally, God is the outer circle and everything else is in concert with His will. When this happens, our lives are in harmony.
- C. How is one to allot their time? When is “enough enough” in one area, because now it is time to move on to something else that is also important that demands my attention?
1. In reality, we are all *Christian jugglers*, trying to balance all of these different responsibilities and obligations. Most of us are stressed with too many balls up in the air.
  2. We need to make sure that God and our families are in their proper place.
  3. We need to recognize that everything we do has an “opportunity cost.” Because we choose to do one thing, that automatically eliminates the opportunity to do everything else we might have done with that time.
  4. The tough choices are between “good, better, and best” and not just “bad and good.”
- D. As we struggle with priorities we often have to fight against the pressure of “the tyranny of the trivial” that erodes away at our time and energies.
1. We need to make sure we do not neglect the essential things (like prayer, Bible study and loving our spouse) because we are so busy doing the important things (paying our bills, cleaning the house, being a responsible employee, etc).
  2. Imagine you suddenly find out that in 15 minutes, a nuclear missile will land and kill you and everything within a 150-mile radius. What would your first thought be?
    - a. Oh no, I forgot to edge the grass or pay my bills? Hardly.
    - b. You’ll be concerned about family, brethren, and loved ones and if you have any sense at all, your own soul and whether or not you are ready to meet your maker.

3. Crisis tends to help us put things into focus as to what really matters. My plea is this: DON'T WAIT FOR A CRISIS OR UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE to put first things first!
- E. We must establish some basic priorities that will serve as a framework to aid in our struggle and help us not to “major in minors - or minor in majors.”
1. “The main thing is to make sure that the main thing is the main thing!”
  2. Peter Drucker: “The key is not doing things right, but making sure you are doing the right things! “
  3. Steven Covey: “We need to make sure we do not spend our lives climbing the ladder of success only to wake up one day and find we are leaning against the wrong wall.”

**THESIS: Examine the FIVE BASIC PRIORITIES IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.**

1. Remember the five P's: We must be the best **Person, Partner, Parent, Provider, Public servant**. Put this up on your mirror and do a “priority check regularly.”
2. Being a priority does not necessarily mean you spend more time proportionally on one than the other. (You may spend eight hours sleeping and one-hour eating, but that does not mean one is eight times more important than the other).

**I. PUTTING GOD AND THE KINGDOM FIRST! (BEST PERSON) (MATTHEW 6:33)**

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- A. I need to spend time in the word regularly. (**John 6:35**) Are we as diligent to feed our souls as our physical bodies? See **Luke 4:4, Deuteronomy 8:3**.
- B. Prayer must be a priority. True communing with God. (**1 Thessalonians 5: 13**)
1. There is a difference between saying prayers and praying. One is throwing up phrases to a stranger and the other is talking to a beneficent father and friend.
  2. I believe prayer, our most powerful tool for wisdom and perfection, is miserably neglected and pitifully underdeveloped.
  3. If we are not willing to give God fifteen minutes a day regularly, 1/96 of a 24-hour period, we are not serious about the Lordship of Jesus.
- C. Time for our own emotional and physical health. (**1 Timothy 4:8**)
1. If we are physical and emotional wrecks we are not able to serve others.
  2. Our bodies are Holy Temples. We need to practice good “temple maintenance.”
  3. We need to be good stewards of our mental capacities as well. (**Matthew 25**)
  4. “What we are at birth is God’s gift to us. What we make of ourselves throughout life (the kind of person we are at death) is our gift back to God.”

## II. TIME WITH OUR SPOUSE (PARTNER).

---

- A. This the relationship out of which a healthy, growing relationship with our children grows. There is a real danger in focusing on the children and neglecting the marriage.
  - 1. Studies show: “The U-shaped curve of marital happiness.” Typically the satisfaction with the marriage is high at the beginning, drops as the children come, and then begins to return once they stop demanding so much time and energy.
  - 2. A common trap of well-meaning committed women is to be ***too much mother and not enough wife***. Make a conscious effort not to over-invest in the children and under-invest in the marriage!
  - 3. I love the poster of the little girl praying: “Dear God, please help Daddy and Mommy to love each other.”
- B. The husband and wife have a responsibility to each other (**Ephesians 5**) and that needs to be first priority over the children.

## III. TIME WITH CHILDREN (PARENT)

---

- A. How tragic that our time and priorities sometimes hardly reflect that we have children. (**Proverbs 18:29**)
  - 1. The battle cry today is: “You can have it all!” A lucrative successful career and passionate marriage and close, respectful children. My answer to that is: You may be able to have it all, but not at the same time. While children are under your care you to make choices. This applies to the Dad too. (**Titus 2:4-5**)
  - 2. I heard of a well-known gospel preacher who canceled an evangelistic tour. People were shocked. His answer: “I have a teenage son that needed me. I share the responsibility for evangelizing the world with a great many people, but I am the only one that has the responsibility to be a father to that boy.”
- B. We need to keep our priorities straight and cancel whatever needs to be canceled in order to spend time with our precious children while they are young.

## IV. TIME WITH OUR VOCATION (PROVIDER)

---

- A. It is important to be responsible here. (**1 Timothy 5:3**)
- B. Too often we allow this to take precedence over being a Christian, Partner, and Parent.
  - 1. I fear we allow our jobs to dictate whether we worship God or not.
  - 2. In the Old Testament, if you missed the appointed day of worship (the Sabbath) for working, it was a capital crime. We need to take Sunday and our responsibility to worship God on His day more seriously than we sometimes do.

- C. We have wonderful opportunities to minister to others at work. We need to do a good job (**Ecclesiastes 9: 10**) so we can be a good example of a Christian and use that as a spring-board to reach others.

## **V. MINISTRY TO OTHERS. (PUBLIC SERVANT)**

---

- A. Do you want to do something for Jesus? Do for others! (**Matthew 25:40; John 13**)
- B. We are to love and serve others, but first, we are to help God's family. (**Galatians 6: 10**)
- C. Obviously, we need to make it a priority to teach others the gospel. (**Mark 16: 16**)

## **CONCLUSION**

---

- A. The key is to remain balanced and not allow ourselves to become "a freak."
  - 1. Yes we need to study and pray, but on the other hand, there comes a time when we need to get off our knees, and our nose out of the book, and get busy about our father's business.
  - 2. On the other hand, one can spend so much time ministering to others that we neglect our own personal growth and study. Either extreme is wrong.
- B. This issue demands **constant reassessment**.
- C. Wallace Hamilton tells the story of his son playing with an old phonograph and he and another boy punching a hole several inches off-center and it creating a terrible sound (great dissonance). He motioned for them to stop. They put it back on center, put the needle down and it produced beautiful harmonious music.
  - 1. Likewise, if our lives are not centered properly, our lives meet with the same difficulty. A life not centered on God will be filled with disharmony.
  - 2. When our hearts and life are centered on God, then we produce beautiful, harmonious music!
- D. We must put God and the family in its proper place and make sure it has proper priority. If that is not right, that must become your number one priority.
- E. I suggest in order to remind each other that your parting admonition becomes not "Take it easy" or "don't work too hard" - but "keep your priorities straight!"



# WORKSHEET ON PRIORITIES

How can I achieve proper balance?  
Where does my marriage fit in with everything else in my life?

Place the following five areas (A-E) in what you believe to be their proper order of importance (1-5). Be able to explain and defend your answer with scripture.

- \_\_\_\_\_ A. Job, profession. Provider/Professional
- \_\_\_\_\_ B. Children -- Parent
- \_\_\_\_\_ C. Personal Relationship with God Person
- \_\_\_\_\_ D. My Spouse (Marriage) Partner
- \_\_\_\_\_ E. Ministry to others (Teaching and Service) Public Servant

## THINK OF THE 5 P'S:

I must first be the best P \_\_\_\_\_ I can be, then the best P \_\_\_\_\_, then the best P \_\_\_\_\_, then the best P \_\_\_\_\_, then the best P \_\_\_\_\_.

*Consider placing the "5-P's" on a card on your mirror as a constant reminder.*

How might our marriage (spouse) actually become too important? Is this possible?

Consider **1 Timothy 2:11-15** and try to consider this passage as you answer. Come up with at least two Biblical examples and one modern-day example of how a love/marriage relationship proved to be out of balance and actually a form of idolatry.

A. Two Bible Examples:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_

B. Modern Day Example:

\_\_\_\_\_

What are the most likely areas in the top five priorities that can cause a marriage to suffer because it is not given proper priority? Discuss some of the pitfalls that are especially common among well-meaning and devote men and women?

- A. What is a common problem among godly mothers?
- B. What is a common problem among ambitious men?
- C. What is a common problem/challenge for preachers?
- D. How can the above-missed priorities be avoided?

## THOUGHT QUESTIONS:

1. What do you see as the greatest cause of regret in later life?
2. What do you think your spouse would say if asked: "Aside from God, where do I fit in your list of priorities?"
3. Given the importance of priorities, what problems naturally arise if married to a non-Christian or an un-committed one?

**CHALLENGE:** Make a habit to make one of your common parting admonitions: "See you later, remember to keep your priorities straight!" (**Hebrews 10:24**)

# HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

*Exodus 20:12, Ephesians 6:2*

## INTRODUCTION

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### A. Key Foundational Principle

### B. Definition:

1. Webster's: "High **respect** as to someone's worth or rank. Official dignity, to hold someone in **public esteem**, to give credit, fame, or glory."
2. Vine's: "Putting high value upon a person, esteeming them highly, includes financial support if needed" (**1 Timothy 5:3, 17**).
  - a) Parents deserve honor simply because they are parents and God has put them in a position of authority over their children. If you have worthy parents that deserve respect it is a wonderful blessing, but if not, the command is still applicable!
  - b) A good example of this is how David treated Saul.

### C. Honor is to be found everywhere – **Romans 13:7**.

1. Wives & husbands – **1 Peter 3:5-6**.
2. Husbands & wives – **1 Peter 3:7**.
3. Citizens – "King" – **1 Peter 2:13-18**.
4. Young – elders – **1 Peter 5:5**.

### D. Lack of Honor is an age-old problem. We must learn the lessons of history!

1. Greeks – Socrates 2400 yrs. ago!  
*"Children have bad manners, show disrespect to elders and love chatter in the place of exercise. They have become tyrants, not servants of the household; they contradict their parents, and tyrannize their teachers!"*
2. Job – **Job 19:18, 30:8ff**.
3. Ancient Israel
  - a) Mocked Elisha – **2 Kings 2:23**.
  - b) Reason for the fall – **Isaiah 3:5, 30:1, 8-9**.
  - c) Explains why it was the "first commandment with promise." God knew if they did not honor their parents they would not honor Him and that they would violate the law, which would cause them to not live long upon the land which God had given them.



4. Top offenses in Public Schools – how times have changed!
  - a) 1940 – Talking, chewing gum, making noise, running, cutting in line, dress code violations, littering.
  - b) 1990 – Drug abuse, alcohol abuse, pregnancy, suicide, rape, robbery, assault.
5. Wm. Bennett’s “Index of Leading Cultural Indicators.” *Comparison 1960/2000.*

a) 80 point drop SAT scores	A. 200% increase in teen suicide
b) 419% increase in illegitimate births	B. 560% increase in violent crime!
c) 300% increase in single mothers	C. 300% increase in welfare children

#### **IV. PARENTS MUST CULTIVATE AN ATTITUDE OF RESPECT & HONOR**

---

- A. Do not allow nonverbal defiance. *“The eye that mocketh at his father and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out and the young eagles shall eat it.” **Proverbs 30:17***
  1. *“Fear every man his mother and father.” **Leviticus 19:3***
  2. Watch the tone of voice talking back!
  3. Train children to say “Yes, Dad,” and “Yes, Mom,” not “What?”
- B. Key principle: Discipline, attitudes, and behaviors will take care of themselves.

#### **V. HONORING PARENTS IS THE FOUNDATION OF SOCIETY**

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- A. Placement in the Ten Commandments (#5) is significant. After one gets their relationship with God right then the very first step in getting along with your fellow man is to learn respect for authority at home.
- B. If not, what about teachers, policemen, elders, marriage vows?
- C. Ever known a vandal or delinquent who honored his/her parents?
- D. If children are not taught to respect us (who they can see), how do we expect them to respect God (who they can’t see)?

#### **VI. NOT RESPECTING PARENTS IN THE O .T. WAS A CAPITAL OFFENSE**

---

- A. See **Deuteronomy 21:18-21; Matthew 15:4.**
- B. Why? The punishment fits the crime! This is the reason why today we should save the most severe punishments for willful defiance!
- C. Nave’s - Eight ways to dishonor parents:
 

1) Stubbornness ( <b>Deuteronomy 21:18-20</b> )	5) Strife in the household ( <b>Micah 7:6</b> )
2) Lack of Respect ( <b>Deuteronomy 27:16</b> )	6) Failure to provide ( <b>Mark 7:11</b> )
3) Despising mother ( <b>Proverbs 15:20</b> )	7) By disobedience ( <b>2 Timothy 3:2</b> )
4) Cursing their father ( <b>Proverbs 30:11</b> )	8) By striking ( <b>Exodus 21:15</b> )
- D. What does it mean for today? God would approve of capital punishment for young adults thirteen and up (the age when the Jews considered someone accountable under the law).

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. Dishonor is a serious infraction – it is something we should focus on!
- B. Remember we are not talking technical obedience, but attitude.
- C. It is the parent’s responsibility to teach. If they don’t learn it from us, who will they learn it from? True Respect Can’t Be Demanded, But Earned! Live a righteous life!

# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

<u>RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD</u>	<u>RELATIONSHIP WITH MAN</u>
1. One GOD	5. Honor Father and Mother
2. GOD is Spirit	6. Respect for life
3. GOD is Holy	7. Respect for Marriage Vows
4. GOD of deliverance	8. Respect for others’ property
	9. Respect for truth
	10. Guard all thoughts

**I am** the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. **You** shall have no other gods before Me. **You** shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. **You** shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. **Observe** the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it, you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day. **Honor** your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you. **You** shall not murder. **You** shall not commit adultery. **You** shall not steal. **You** shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. **You** shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.' (Deuteronomy 5:6-21)

# HOW TO INSTILL HONOR & KEEP YOUR CHILDREN UNDER LOVING COMMAND

(Exodus 20:12)

## INTRODUCTION

---

- A. Rodney Dangerfield quips: "I just don't get no respect." When a parent feels that from his children there is no greater pain.
- Shakespeare - "Sharper than a serpent's fang is a thankless child."
  - Proverbs 19:26** "He that disrespects his father, and chaseth away his mother; is a son that causeth shame and bringeth reproach."
  - Proverbs 17:21** "The father of a fool (scoffer) hath no joy."
- B. Honor is such a *key principle*. Teaching children to honor us as parents are foundational to help them show honor and respect to all authority figures—including God Himself. A key principle of successful parenting to make sure the children learn **1 Peter 2:17** well – "Show proper respect to everyone."

## I WHAT CAN A PARENT DO TO PRACTICALLY INSTILL HONOR?

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- A. Treat *them* with **respect**. **Practice the golden rule.** **Matthew 7:12**
- Discipline but don't *humiliate*—there is a huge difference.
  - Don't discipline in front of peers or others. Discipline, criticize in *private*.
  - Don't flick on the mouth or slap on the face. With younger children use a switch on the back of the legs/rear-end. "Mourning" needs to take place on the part of the child but it needs to induce in a way that is not abusive.
  - I do not recommend exercising corporal discipline once children get into their teens. Phase it out as they get older. Use reason and the revoking of privileges instead. It is much more appropriate as they become young adults.
  - Don't eavesdrop or open their mail. (Only exception would be unless trust has been seriously violated).
- B. **Respect each other**—talk respectfully *to them* and *to your spouse*.
- Children often talk to the mother and father the way they observe the father and mother talking to each other. How the mother submits to the husband will speak volumes as to how the children will submit to the parents.
  - Show honor to your own mother and father. Do you talk about and treat them in the way you want to be treated?
- C. **Teach them about the gift of honor** as it relates to other people and especially older people (**Leviticus 19:32, Proverbs 16:31**). *People must be valued above things.*
- Teach them to be *courteous* and to practice good manners. Remember: "Good manners begin at home."

- b. “I am a little thing with big meaning. I help everybody. I unlock doors, open hearts, and dispel prejudice. I create friendships and goodwill. I inspire respect and admiration. Everybody loves me; I bore nobody. I violate no law. I cost nothing. Many have praised me: none have condemned me. I am pleasing to those of low and high degree. I am useful every moment of the day. **I AM COURTESY.**
  - c. *Nothing is as inexpensive yet as priceless as courtesy.*
  - d. Examples: Say “Excuse me,” “Pardon me,” “Thank you,” “You are welcome,” “Nice to meet you.” Teach them to look people in the eyes when they meet someone. To let guests go first, give your seat to a lady, open doors, practice good table manners, etc.
  - e. Stress that the point behind all of this is to be thoughtful and considerate and to honor others in treating them respectfully. The point is to make people feel comfortable...not “stuffy.”
- D. Be Real. Matthew 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart.” Pure – Genuine!**
- a. Admit when you have made a mistake and ask their forgiveness, just as you expect them to apologize to you. Jesus in the Lord’s Prayer says “*Forgive us our trespasses even as we forgive those who have transgressed against us*” (**Matthew 6:12**).
  - b. Our ultimate faith must be in God, not people—and that includes parents who will at times make mistakes. Always point your children to a higher standard!
- E. Avoid Double Standards. James 1:8 “A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.”**
- a. “Don’t do as I do, but do as I say” brings rebellion.
  - b. Kids see through hypocrisy—it breeds resentment.
- F. Be a parent, not a buddy.** Concentrate on being *respected* in the *long run*, not being *liked* in the *short run*. We are to “raise them up” to a higher standard—not to lower ourselves to their immaturity. “Train the up” **Proverbs 22:6** connects the same idea.
- a. **Objection:** “I don’t want to discipline my children because I love them too much.” Translated: “I have such low self-esteem I can’t stand even the short-term rejection that discipline might bring.”
  - b. **Proverbs 29:15** “*The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.*”
  - c. **Proverbs 13: 24** “*He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.*” Hebrew= Diligent= “to the point of exhaustion.”

**SOMEDAY I’LL TELL MY CHILDREN:**

“You don’t love me!” How many times have your kids laid that one on you? And how many times have you as a parent, resisted the urge to tell them how much? Someday, when my children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates a mother I’ll tell them:

- ☞ I loved you enough to bug you about where you were going, with whom, and what time you would get home.
- ☞ I loved you enough to be silent and let you discover your hand-picked friend was a creep.

- ☞ I loved you enough to make you return a Milky Way with a bite out of it to a drugstore and confess, “I stole this.”
- ☞ I love you enough to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your bedroom, a job that would have taken me 15 minutes.
- ☞ I loved you enough to not make excuses for your lack of respect or your bad manners.
- ☞ I loved you enough to ignore “what every other mother did.”
- ☞ I loved you enough to figure you would lie about the party being chaperoned but forgive you for it after discovering I was right.
- ☞ I loved you enough to let you stumble, falter and fail so that you could learn to stand alone.
- ☞ I loved you enough to accept you for what you are, not what I wanted you to be.
- ☞ But most of all, I loved you enough to say “no” when you hated me for it. That was the hardest part of all.

- d. Don’t underestimate your children. They can be shrewd, clever, and insightful. Don’t be *naive*—if you allow them they can manipulate you.
- e. Your children are of *equal worth—but not rank* and the distinct role of parent and child should not be blurred. Your child needs a respected authority figure more than he/she needs another “buddy.”

**G. Don’t let your children ignore you—it is disrespectful!**

- a. Little children— Gentle reminder at first: “Where are your ears?”
- b. Be very skeptical of “I forgot.” Some things you don’t forget. Discipline will help them to “remember.”

**H. Teach them to respect your word by keeping it and to expect the same from you.**

- a. Dad: “Make promises sparingly and keep them faithfully.”
  - i. **Proverbs 12:22** “A liar is an abomination to Jehovah, but he that deals truthfully is His delight.”
  - ii. **1 Peter 3: 10-11** “Let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips should speak no guile (deceit)... let him seek peace and pursue it.”
- b. What if you threaten your kids with things you never intend to follow through on? Illustration. “Knock your block off,” “Ring your neck,” “Grounded for a month.”
  - i. Children have a keen sense of fair play. If you make a habit of idle threats where you break promises—you **break trust**. Don’t back down on your word once given.
- c. Expect your children to come the first time, not the third time after you have had to yell and get upset.



## II KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN UNDER LOVING COMMAND:

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### FOUR BASIC TYPES OF PARENTING

1. The *Dominant* Parent –Authoritarian–“Do as I say because I say so.”
2. The *Neglectful* Parent–“Too busy with my own life to care.”
3. The *Permissive* Parent– “No rules–do mostly what you want.”
4. The **Loving and Firm** Parent – Authoritative– Firm guidelines that must be followed, consequences when they are not, but love and acceptance is the environment in which it all takes place. You can be both *tough and tender* at the same time!

- A. The scriptures teach the necessity of starting while children are young.
  - a. AN IMPORTANT KEY IS: **GRAB THE REIGNS OF AUTHORITY EARLY**
    - i. “Discipline your son while there is hope, and do not desire his death.” (**Proverbs 19:18**), this implies a time will come when hope may be gone!”
    - ii. “He that spares his rod hates his son, but he that loves him chastens him betimes.” (**Proverbs 13:14**) Note: “betimes” = “diligently, early, immediately.”
- B. By starting young you will better be able to *break their will but not their spirit*. The longer you wait the more difficult it becomes. Why is this so important?
  - a. Illustration: Have you ever wondered why young children can learn to speak perfect Russian, Chinese, Spanish, Hebrew or any other language to which they are exposed? No trace of an accent will be manifested.
  - b. Yet 20 or more years later most individuals will only be able to approximate the sound made by natives of the particular region.
    - i. Researchers now know why this is true. It is explained by a process known as “phoneme contraction” (or “sound dropout”)
    - ii. The larynx of a young child assumes a shape necessary to make the sound he is learning to use at the time. It then solidifies or hardens in those positions, making it impossible or very difficult to make other sounds later in life.
  - c. Thus, there is a brief *window of opportunity* when anything is possible, linguistically. It will soon be history.
    - i. A child’s attitude toward parental authority is similar. He or she passes through a brief window of opportunity during late infancy and toddlerhood when respect and “awe” can be instilled.
    - ii. That pliability will not last long.
    - iii. If the child’s early reach for power is successful, he or she will not willingly give it up.
    - iv. CONSIDER **Proverbs 22:15** - “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will remove it far from him.” THE LONGER YOU WAIT TO “DRIVE IT FROM THEM” THE HARDER IT WILL BE!

- C. This is not accomplished by being harsh, gruff or stern. Instead, the **relationship is produced by confident and steady leadership**. You are the boss. You are *in charge*. If you believe it, the child will accept it also.
- Illustration: Mother of a six-month-old child who could not tell the doctor for sure whether or not her child had a fever because “he wouldn’t let me insert the thermometer.”
  - If the parent is insecure, the child will sense it and step into the power vacuum that is created.
  - Consider the following: Susannah Wesley, mother of the eighteenth-century evangelists John and Charles Wesley, reportedly raised seventeen healthy godly children. Toward the end of her life, John asked her to express her philosophy of mothering to him in writing. Consider carefully what she has to say:

“In order to form the minds of children, the first thing to be done is to conquer the will and bring them into an obedient temper. To inform the understanding is a work of time, and must with children proceed by slow degrees as they are able to bear it, but the subjecting of the will is a thing which must be done at once, and the sooner the better!

By neglecting timely correction, they will contract a stubbornness and obstinacy which is hardly ever after conquered and never without using such severity as would be painful to me as to the children. In the esteem of the world, those who withhold timely correction would pass for kind and indulgent parents, whom I call cruel parents, who permit their children to get habits which they know must afterward be broken. Nay, some are so stupidly fond as in sport to teach their children to do things which in the after a while, they must severely beat them for doing.

Whenever a child is corrected, it must be conquered; and this will be no hard manner to do if it be not grown headstrong by too much indulgence. And, if the will of a child is totally subdued, and if it be brought to revere and stand in awe of the parents, then a great many childish follies and inadvertencies may be passed by. Some should be overlooked and taken no notice of, and others mildly reprov'd. But no willful transgressions ought ever to be forgiven children, without chastisement, more or less as the nature and circumstances of the offenses shall require.

I cannot dismiss this subject. As self-will is the root of all sin and majesty, so whatever cherishes this in children insures theirs after wretchedness and faithlessness. Whatever checks and mortifies, promotes their future happiness and piety. This is still more evident if we further consider that Christianity is nothing less than doing the will of God and not our own; that the one grand impediment to our temporal and eternal happiness being this self will. No indulgence of it can be trivial, no denial unprofitable.”

Does that sound harsh by twentieth-century standards? Different words might need to be used to guard against parental oppression and over-bearing, but her understanding agrees with that of Dr. James Dobson:

“If the strong-willed child is allowed by indulgence to develop ‘habits’ of defiance and disrespect during his early childhood, those characteristics will haunt him for the next twenty years.”

Note how Mrs. Wesley recommended overlooking “childish follies and inadvertencies,” but never to ignore “willful transgressions”. Notice what James Dobson had to say in his book, *Dare to Discipline*. This part was dealing with what Mrs. Wesley called “follies and inadvertencies”.

“The issue of respect can be a useful tool in knowing when to punish and how excited one should get about a given behavior. First, the parent should decide whether an undesirable behavior represents a direct challenge of his authority - to his position as the father or mother.

Punishment should **depend on that evaluation**. For example, suppose little Walter is acting silly in the living room and he falls into a table, breaking many expensive china cups and other trinkets. Or suppose he loses a bicycle or leaves Dad's best saw out in the rain. These are acts of childish irresponsibility and should be handled as such. Perhaps the parent should have the child work to pay for the losses -depending on the age and maturity of the child, of course. However, these examples do not constitute direct challenges to authority...

This is what Mrs. Wesley referred to as "willful transgressions". Here is what James Dobson recommended concerning this:

"The things that emanate from willful, haughty disobedience are in a different category altogether. In my opinion, spanking should be reserved for the moment a child (age ten or less) expresses a defiant, "I will not!" or "You shut up!" When a youngster tries this kind of stiff-necked rebellion, you had better take it out of him, and pain is a marvelous purifier. When nose to nose confrontation occurs between you and your child, it is not the time to send him to his room to pout. It is not appropriate to wait until poor, tired old Dad comes plodding in from work, just in time to handle the conflicts of the day. You have drawn a line in the dirt, and your child has deliberately flopped his big hairy toe across it. Who is going to win? Who has the most courage? Who is in charge here? If you do not answer these questions conclusively for the child, he will precipitate other battles designed to ask them again and again. It is the ultimate paradox of childhood that a youngster wants to be controlled, but he insists that his parents earn the right to control him. This is not a philosophy born of harshness, it is conceived in love."

- D. Corporal punishment is reserved specifically for moments of **willful, deliberate, on-purpose defiance** by a child who is **old enough to understand what he is doing**.
  - a. These challenges to authority will begin at approximately fifteen months of age and should be met with loving firmness.
    - i. A single stinging slap on the upper leg will be sufficient to say, "You just listen when I tell you no."
    - ii. But in your persistence, you will establish yourself as the leader to whom the child owes obedience.
  - b. At the same time, however, you must seek numerous and continual ways of telling this youngster how much you adore him.
    - i. That formula of love and discipline has been tested and validated over many centuries of time and it will work for you!"

## CONCLUSION

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- A. One of the fundamental keys to parenting is "Grab the reins of authority early."
- B. Consider using corporal punishment specifically to deal with willful defiance. Be determined to **win every conflict of the wills** and your job as a parent will be much easier.
- C. Couple tender love and affection with strong discipline and you will earn your child's love and respect for a lifetime! *The Key is Balance*.



## Creative Parenting “Thinking out of the Box”

### I. R. LEWIS: “LAST STAGE OF MATURATION PROCESS.”

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- A. We are raising God’s kids! **Psalm 127:3-4**
- B. Many areas of judgment...
- C. Need is to ask for wisdom! **James 1: 5-6**

### II. FOCUS: NURTURING, CREATING STRONG EMOTIONAL BONDS

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- A. **Ephesians 6:4** “But *nurture* them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord.”
- B. Nurture = Cherishing (lit. warming). Close-knit!
- C. Chastening = Punishment, discipline
- D. Admonition = Warning, counsel **Proverbs 29:15** “Rod & Reproof”
- E. Instruction = teaching **Deuteronomy 6**
- F. Training = **Proverbs 22:6**

### III. THE IMPORTANCE OF NAMES “NOMEN EST OMEN” – LATIN: “NAMES ARE DESTINY”

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- A. Are names important to God?  
**Ephesians 3:15** “Everything on heaven and on earth is named.”
  - 1. Adam—named the animals **Genesis 2:19-20**
  - 2. Parents—responsibility to name children
  - 3. Abram/Abraham & Sarai/Sarah **Genesis 17**
  - 4. Seven births named by angels—usually told what to name the child so app.  
Named:
    - a) Jesus – “*Jehovah saves*” **Matthew 1:21**
    - b) Song: “*Jesus: Name Above All Names*”
  - 5. John – “*Grace*” – **Luke 1:13; John 1:17**
- B. Personal Favorites:
  - 1. Hezekiah– “*Jehovah is my strength*”
  - 2. Timothy – “*Devoted to God.*”
  - 3. Samuel – “*Answered Prayer.*”

#### IV. IMPORTANCE OF NAMES

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- A. Parent's need to use this as a part of building self-esteem and purpose...
  - 1. Amy – “Beloved”
  - 2. Allison – “Honest one”
  - 3. Allison Louise (Grandmother)
    - a) Louise- Maiden= protector, watchful.
    - b) We chose to emphasize Nana's good traits.
  - 4. Same thing true with a Bible name
    - a) David: Heb. “*Messiah's love*”
    - b) Giant killer, after God's own heart, leader...
- B. “The Name Book”-Dorothea Austin
  - 1. “Character-building value in understanding its meaning.”
  - 2. “Each name carries its own message, its own gift. Discover its heritage, significance and spiritual application we can live up to!”

#### V. IMPORTANCE OF NAMES *NOMEN EST OMEN* – “NAMES ARE DESTINY!”

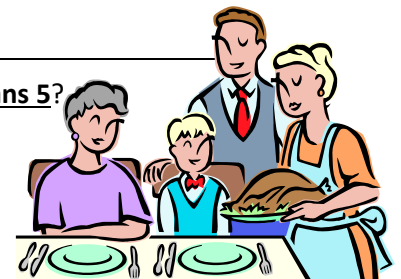
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- A. Brent – High place, honor — “Rising above obstacles.”
- B. Gail - Joyous one, a merry heart
- C. Do you know what your name means? Never too late to benefit!
- D. Take the names of the local congregation and publish the meanings...
- E. Tell children in Bible class the spiritual significance of their name can have lasting impact!!
- F. **Proverbs 22:1** “*A good name is more to be desired than great riches.*”

#### VI. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FAMILY DINNER HOUR!

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- A. What is one to do when you disfellowship someone in **1 Corinthians 5**?
- B. Why? Not eat?
  - 1. The process of eating together creates emotional bonds.
  - 2. (Often the most lonely ... when eat by yourself).
  - 3. One of the few times during the day you can communicate and share your day.
- C. Make the family dinner hour sacred.



*“The more often a child eats dinner with his/her family, the less likely that child is to smoke, drink, or use drugs. Frequent family dining is correlated with doing well in school and developing healthy eating habits. This pattern holds true regardless of a child's gender, family structure, or socioeconomic level.”*

## VII. STUDY OF NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

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- A. "One survey examined National Merit scholars, looking for common denominators in their upbringing. Almost without exception, the most astounding teenagers grew up in homes where the *whole family* sat down and ate dinner together at night." The July 1997 Issue of Ladies Home Journal; Source: *The Chicago Tribune*

## VIII. FAMILY MEMORY VERSES:

- A. Before we say our prayer we say either our family motto or a verse.
1. Keep them on 3" by 5" cards and write them down, review, share **Psalm 119:11**.
  2. Find verses that meet current needs in the family...
    - a) **Isaiah 41:10** "*Fear thou not for I am with thee. Be not dismayed, for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee, I will help thee, I will uphold thee with thy right arm of righteousness.*"
  3. Sometimes read an article out of the paper and ask what they think...so we can help "process" the material and guide their thinking.

## IX. FAVORITE SAYING: "WATCH"

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- A. Watch your thoughts; they become *words*.
- B. Watch your words; they become *actions*.
- C. Watch your actions; they become *habits*.
- D. Watch your habits; they become *character*.
- E. Watch your character; it becomes your *destiny*.

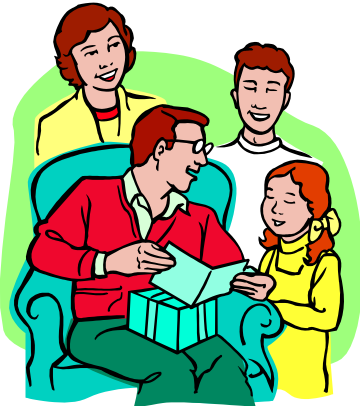
## X. FAMILY MOTTO OR MISSION STATEMENT

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- A. Families of the past "Coat of Arms" or "seal" which identified them.
- B. Important to live up to values and not dishonor the family name.
- C. The American Flag— "Stars and Stripes" and pledge of allegiance...
- D. Businesses understand the value of a motto: GM, Hallmark cards.
- E. Why not our own families?
  1. What you will someday be you are now becoming!
  2. What the flag is to our country this motto would be for my family!!



**THE HUNTER FAMILY MOTTO**



We are a loving, affectionate, responsible, obedient, cheerful Godly family. We are always do our best and finish what we start.

best and finish what we start.  
Godly family. We are always do our

**THE WALKER FAMILY CREED**

We are the Walkers. We Walk in Paths of Righteousness. We are a family of loving supportive people, and our goal is to help each other be our best. We focus on whatever is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, and of good reputation. We strive for excellence, and being worthy of praise. We are the Walkers and Walker women don't wear brown!!



**JOEL AND KATE WILSFORD'S FAMILY MISSION IS TO:**

- Love, care for, and support each other . . .
- Making our home a refuge from the world. . .
- Enjoy life and all its blessings . . .
- Do for others . . . .
- Giving ourselves to God forever!!

**Signed: Joel, Emily, Jeanie, Kate, Anna**

## THE HUBER FAMILY MOTTO

"We are the . . .  
HOLY, HUMOROUS, HAPPY, HELPFUL, HONEST, HEROIC HUBERS!"

## THE MCCRARY FAMILY CREED

We are the McCrary's . . .  
Climbing joyfully toward the city of God...  
Teaching others as onward we trod.  
Living worshipfully every day...  
Caring compassionately for others along the way.  
Showing hospitality for those in need...  
Displaying kindness despite race or creed.  
Giving willingly as we can...  
Loving daily our fellow man."

## WE ARE THE CRAFTS FAMILY

- We are a Compassionate, Cheerful, Crazy, Conscientious, Come-on-over Christian family.
- We Cherish: The Name and Sacrifice of Christ, The Truth of His Holy Word, and Each Other.
- And sometimes we're: cat-loving, cinema-viewing, chicken-eating, chocolate-loving, couch potatoes.

**Why not take some time and come up with a family motto,  
creed or mission statement of our own?**

Family Traditions = Build close-knit bonds!

- F. Traditions = "To hand down."
- G. Good traditions can become cherished memories which show forethought and concern
- H. Twofold purpose:
  1. Create anticipation and meaningful reflection later
  2. Cement relationships that create lifelong bonds of closeness (**Ephesians 6:4**)

## XI. TRADITIONS

---

- A. God has “handed down” many memorials and Divine traditions. Reminds us of important things/keep us from becoming ungrateful and forgetful.
  - 1. Exodus and the Passover (**Exodus 12:24-27**).
  - 2. New Testament. The Lord’s Supper – look forward and backward (**1 Peter 1:9**) become one (**1 Corinthians 10:17**)

## XII. EXAMPLES/IDEAS

---

- A. Family mottos & verses become cherished traditions...
- B. Spiritual Birthdays...
  - 1. 9/9/95 Amy, 10/25/97 Allison
- C. *You are special* plate...
- D. Go for family walks...
- E. Friday night was Family night
  - 1. Kids choice, ride bikes, watch a video, pop popcorn, play games, etc.
  - 2. Put ideas in a fun box where you draw a selection of your family member choices.
  - 3. Tuck in – nightly prayer with a blessing.
  - 4. “Pillow prayers” – good with teens

## XIII. LET’S MAKE A MEMORY...

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- A. Book by **Gloria Gaither and Shirley Dobson** “Great ideas for building family tradition and togetherness..”
- B. *“We have a moment to hold in our hand and to touch as it slips through our fingers like sand. Yesterday’s gone and tomorrow may never come, but we have this moment today.”*
- C. May God bless you as you *creatively* raise your children in the *nurture* and admonition of the Lord!

### WHERE TO FIND SOME THE RESOURCES MENTIONED IN THE CREATIVE PARENTING LESSON:

**Our Daily Bread box** -- is published by Day Spring Cards and is available from a variety of sources. I have ordered them in the past from the Florida College bookstore. 1-800-922-2390, 1-800-423-1648.

**YOU ARE SPECIAL PLATE** -- [www.redplatestore.com](http://www.redplatestore.com) Can be ordered over the Internet.

**THE NAME BOOK** -- by Dorothy Astoria--new expanded edition. Bethany House Publishers. You can get them inexpensively from Amazon.com and other sources by doing a Google search.

**PROVERBS FOR PARENTING** -- A topical guide for child-raising from the book of Proverbs. Barbara Decker -- published by Lynn's Bookshelf. Copyright, 87 and 91. An excellent resource for parents! (And preachers putting together sermons or counseling helping people with a variety of issues!) Proverbs for Parenting: A Topical Guide for Child Raising from the Book of Proverbs by **Barbara Decker (Hardcover - Dec 1989)** 22 Used & new from \$14.05

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR...  
**CREATIVE PARENTING**

(“Thinking outside the box!”)

**Parenting is not about just mothering but “fathering” as well.  
In fact, Dad should take the lead!**

**A GOOD NAME IS TO BE CHOSEN RATHER THAN GREAT RICHES, LOVING FAVOR RATHER THAN SILVER AND GOLD. (PROVERBS 22:1)**

**My name means:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My wife’s name means:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My children’s names mean:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How am I going to use this information to help build courage and character?**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**List some barriers keeping the family dinner time almost sacred:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**How can we overcome these?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How many will commit to composing your family mission or motto?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What are your favorite traditions?** \_\_\_\_\_

**List some new ones to begin right now as you decide to better lead your own family?**  
\_\_\_\_\_

*(Two great sources for helpful tips: Steven Covey’s “7 Habits for Highly Effective Families” and Gloria Gather’s “Great Ideas for Building Family Traditions and Togetherness”)*



# Winning With the Hand You're Dealt

## FIVE WINNING CHOICES

### INTRODUCTION

---

- A. Of the five cards we are given in life, c\_\_\_\_\_ is the most important.
- B. "W\_\_\_\_\_ is the principle thing" in life (Proverbs 4:7).

### I I CAN CHOOSE TO BE HEALTHIER

---

- A. I can treat my body as the t\_\_\_\_\_ of the HS that it is (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
- B. "Your hands fashioned me, give me understanding" (Psalms 119:73-74).

### II I CAN CHOOSE TO DEEPEN MY RELATIONSHIPS

---

- A. I can build healthier relationships and replace bad ones (Proverbs 13:20).
- B. B. The fear of rejection prevents *connection*, but love can overcome it (1 John 4:18). Do the thing you fear the most.
- C. "Let L\_\_\_\_\_ be your highest goal" (1 Corinthians 14:1).
- D. May our hearts be "*rooted and grounded in love*" (Ephesians 3:17)

### III I CAN TRUST GOD NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS

---

- A. "I will praise the Lord no matter what happens" (Psalms 34:1).
- B. "I am a product of my past, but I'm not a p\_\_\_\_\_ of it."

### IV I CAN CHOOSE WHAT I THINK ABOUT

---

- A. "If anyone is in C\_\_\_\_\_ he is a *new creation*" (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- B. "Fix your thoughts on what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. Let your mind dwell on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

**ANSWERS:**  
 CHRIST  
 CHOICE  
 PRISONER  
 WISDOM  
 LOVE  
 SINS  
 CHOICE

*[continued on next page]*



**V I CAN CHOOSE JESUS AS MY SAVIOR**

---

- A. Yes, I need Jesus to save me from my s\_\_\_\_\_ (**Luke 19:10**).
- B. I also need Jesus to save me from myself and the flaws in every area of my life, that I might have an abundant life (**John 10:10**).
- C. Jesus will bless your life, but only when you *choose* to trust in Him.

**Conclusion:**

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**When you choose Jesus, He enables you to have a winning hand, regardless of the cards you have been dealt.**



# PASSING ON VALUES TO THE NEXT GENERATION

## INTRODUCTION

---

Moody Monthly reports that only 20% of children growing up in denominational homes continue in their faith. Flavil Yeakly finds among churches of Christ that the average is about 50%. This is **DISTURBING...TRAGIC...WRONG!!!**

- A. How do we instill beliefs and pass them on?
  - 1. GOAL: churches of “**regeneration**”! GOD has no grandchildren. Each one must be a child of faith with his own convictions.
  - 2. If our children’s faith is not their own, it is no different than an “inherited faith” from a denomination!
    - a. This lesson is for anyone who lives and works with children!
    - b. Everyone touched by the gospel will be concerned about all children, not just their own. (**Malachi 4:6**)
    - c. I want to go to Heaven **where all of the children will be!**
    - d. Considering the stats, we must do better!
  - 3. To please GOD, we must teach His values.
    - a. Abraham (a friend of GOD) was diligent to “*command his children and his household after him that they may keep the way of Jehovah and do righteousness and justice.*” **Genesis 18:19.**
    - b. Solomon declared, “*A child left to his own shall grow up to bring shame to his mother.*” **Proverbs 29:15.**
- B. GOD, not humans, created values. They affect the quality of life in the “here and now” as well as in the hereafter. President Bush said the real crisis in our country revolved around values. I agree. Tough choices become easy when you **decide** first what your values are!!!!!!

## I. VALUES

---

- A. Def.: “*Those beliefs to which you attach worth*”
  - 1. Some are more highly ranked than others. (**Proverbs 22:1**)
  - 2. Some are attached to supreme worth.
- B. Values may focus on different areas.
  - 1. Experiences (ex. Recreation)
  - 2. Relationships (ex. David Gates’ song, “Everything I Own”)
  - 3. Objects (Remember: “**Things**” can be replaced!)
  - 4. Abstract truth (**Proverbs 23:23**)  
 (“Never put passion above principle”--- from The Karate Kid)

- C. Determine your values
  1. First, should be knowing and loving GOD (**Matthew 22:36f**)
  2. Second, it should come from valuing what GOD values.

## II. PASSING ON GOD'S VALUES (SEE DEUTERONOMY 6:1-8)

---

### A. By modeling

1. *"That ye might **do** them"* BEFORE passing them on (**v 1**)
  - a. First and foremost, it's our example. (**v 17**)
  - b. Think: "Not taught, but caught!"
  - c. "Practice what you preach!"
2. What we live communicates powerfully!
  - a. Jesus: a **teacher** and a **doer** (**Acts 1:1**)
  - b. The disciples were *transformed* by His modeling. (**Acts 4:13**)
  - c. "Don't do as I do, do as I say" is a waste of breath.
  - d. Emerson stated, "What you are thunders in my ear so loudly, I can't hear a word you're saying!"
  - e. There is no substitute for godly living!

### B. By instructing

1. *"Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children"* (**v 7**)
  - a. Hebrew root: "to whet or to sharpen"
  - b. GOAL: Whet their appetites and sharpen their minds!
2. **Creativity** is essential! We're competing with so much today!!!
3. Make God's Word a **part** of them! (**Deuteronomy 6:8**)
4. Resources available to help us teach godly values are better than ever!

### C. By discussing

1. **Talking** is different than teaching.
  - a. Listen as much as you teach. Discuss with give and take.
  - b. This process helps our kids "internalize" their own values.
2. Don't give "pat answers" and lectures. Help them think through erroneous ideas for themselves.
4. Jesus answered questions with questions --- very effective teaching!

### D. By spending time (**v 7**)

1. Spiritual time goes beyond worship.
  - a. Teach when you *"sitteth in thy house."*
  - b. Guide when you *"walketh by the way."*
    - 1) Take walks and talk with your children.
    - 2) Today's version: "When thou rideth down the road..."
  - c. And don't miss opportunities when you *"lieth down at night."*
  - d. When you *"riseth up"* should not be forgotten either.
2. Make the time to do these things --- it takes an effort to be available.
  - a. Benjamin Franklin: "Time is the stuff life is made of." I can't give you anything more than my life! How powerful is that?
  - b. "Quality vs. quantity time" --- A MYTH!

3. *“The most serious problem of TV is not poor programming but that it has destroyed the average family conversation at the evening meal. People are anxious to see their favorite programs and rush through the meal. What happened through the day, both big and small, is never discussed.”* --- a quote from Dr. Graham Blainey, Chief Psychiatrist, Harvard Univ.
4. A National Merit Scholar study found the one common denominator of their recipients was that everyone reported having regular evening family meals. Parents spoke frequently about the value of education. Will our children’s family-time memories be the same?

## CONCLUSION

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- A. If we commit to doing a better job of passing on godly values to our kids...
  1. We can save most rather than losing **HALF!**
  2. We gain zealous first-generation Christians, not a lukewarm second generation with no personal faith of its own!
  3. BONUS: We are blessed to see our children and grandchildren personally choose to serve the LORD and live by His values!

### Honoring Parents (Selected)

Ancient history records, that a certain city was besieged, and at length obliged to surrender. In the city there were two brothers, who had, in some way, obliged the conquering general; and in consequence of this, received permission to leave the city before it was set on fire, taking with them as much of their property as each could carry about his person. Accordingly, the two generous youths appeared at the gates of the city, one of them carrying their father and the other carrying their mother.

### Taking Mother's Hand (Selected)

When a boy or girl thrusts his small hand in yours, it may be smeared with chocolate ice cream or grimy from petting a dog, and there may be a wart under the right thumb and a bandage around the little finger. But the most important thing about his hands is that they are the hands of the future. These are hands that someday may hold a Bible or a Colt revolver; [hold a hymnbook in worship] or spin a gambling wheel; gently dress a leper's wound or tremble wretchedly uncontrolled by an alcoholic mind. Right now, that hand is yours. It asks for help and guidance. It represents a full-fledged personality in miniature to be respected as a separate individual whose day-to-day growth into Christian adulthood is YOUR responsibility.

A LITTLE GIRL WAS ASKED WHERE HOME WAS, SAID, “WHERE MOTHER IS.”

**BRITE MUSIC, Inc** <http://www.britekids.com>

Accelerated learning, social development, self-esteem, and personal safety products for children of every age.

---

*Music is stored in our long-term memory. When we learn something through music, we remember it longer and believe it more deeply. Brite has put the inestimable power of music to work for your children!*

*"A remarkably effective tool that should be in every home where there are children."  
Dr. Alvin Price, Child Psychologist, and Consultant--National Head Start Program*

**Accelerated Learning** – Music is a proven aid to learning. When music is involved in the learning process, children comprehend sooner and the effect is long-lasting. Brite is the nation’s leader in music-based education products.

**Social Development** – Social skills are crucial to a well-rounded education. Brite has a library of music-based products specifically designed to teach children to be sensitive, caring members of society.

**Self-Esteem & Safety** – In an increasingly threatening world, education must be reinforced with an ongoing theme of self-esteem while stressing a commitment to basic values – important attributes when dealing with peer pressure. Brite arms children with proven safety strategies.

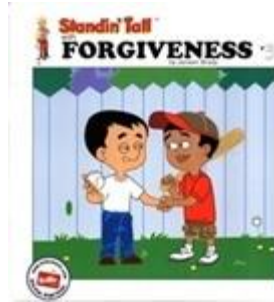
**LESSONS FOR GETTING ALONG... AND INSTILLING THE RIGHT KIND OF VALUES!**



## Standin' Tall



Children of any age will enjoy listening to this uplifting and positive series of musical adventures. Each CD is a fully orchestrated story with sound effects and original upbeat music. Through dramatized storylines and memorable characters, children learn a different valuable lesson in each of the Standin' Tall volumes. Standin' Tall discusses socially significant topics in a language children enjoy and understand.



1. **Obedience** – Journey to the Land of Obey where children learn to obey cheerfully the first time they're asked to.
2. **Honesty** – Children in this story learn the value of telling the truth, even if it's hard and that honesty is more valuable than treasure.
3. **Forgiveness** – A girl learns that bad feelings stay inside like a sliver and fester unless one forgives. She also learns it's important to forgive herself.
4. **Work** – Sometimes work is fun and sometimes it isn't, but it's always good for you.
5. **Courage** – Blaze learns to be a hero by overcoming fear, saying no to a dare and not yielding to peer pressure.
6. **Happiness** – An unhappy princess learns that happiness comes from within, not from having lots of possessions.
7. **Gratitude** – Jenny learns that a "gratitude attitude" makes people happier and more willing to do nice things for her.
8. **Love** – Children explore the different facets of love and learn how to share it with others.



9. **Service** – Heather and Paul learn through experience that “the more we serve, the more we love.”
10. **Cleanliness** – Delightful little Scrubbitts show children that it really is fun to wash their hair, brush their teeth, and bathe without complaining.
11. **Self-Esteem** – Mark learns to be his own best friend. It doesn’t matter how we look, or if we make mistakes. We’re all unique and worthwhile.
12. **Dependability** – Even Captain Dependable can fall victim to corrupting procrastination. Reggie and Kate learn to face responsibility.

People sometimes ask, “How can something so simple have such a big impact?” The answer is in three important characteristics of Brite Music products:

- 1) Kids love to have fun and Brite Music products are fun!
- 2) Brite Music products teach valuable lessons and principles.
- 3) Music increases a child’s ability to learn and retain information.

You will find products for your child elsewhere that have one or even two of these features, but it’s the **combination of all three** that makes Brite Music products so effective!

It’s rare to find something that your child loves which, during the time they’re using it, is building their self-esteem, teaching them important safety skills and helping them learn character traits such as obedience, honesty, love, friendliness, dependability and many more.

**That’s what Brite Music is all about – improving the lives of children!**

**“These make great presents and are a wonderful way that grandparents can positively help to impact positively the values of their grandchildren! Highly recommended.” Brent Hunter**

<http://www.britekids.com>



**Music-by-the-Month**  
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