

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL!!



The sin and temptation of modern society can seem overwhelming, especially to parents of children. In the words of Frederick Douglas, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." Following is some advice for building strong children TODAY.

Show that God is real and important to you by putting His Word on display in your home. Put a bowl of Bible verses by the door and tuck a verse in your pocket each day as you leave the house. Help your children do the same. Model good

behavior for your children by letting God save you utterly and completely. (One website with an abundance of child-friendly Bible verses is www.bibleparent.com.)

At roughly age ten ask your children if they have ever seen pictures of sex. Explain that sex is easy...bugs do it... but love is hard, and without God impossible. The four-letter word love is more powerful than the three letter word sex. Share what love means to you. Show love in your family. Have them tell you what love is. Their answer will reveal if their idea of love is centered on themselves or on others.

Make sure your children have a forever family...a church family. Do everything you can to make sure they have access to their heavenly Father, especially if they are children of divorce. A major resiliency factor (something that neutralizes risk factors in a child's life) is a close relationship with at least one adult. Other important resiliency factors are regular church attendance and deep personal faith. Divorce and single parenting are tough, but don't give up; with God all things are possible.

Be a part of your children's social life. Invite their friends to your home one night a week or month. Try to restrict the amount of time your children play video games (30 minutes a day is reasonable) as too much time gaming can lead to anti-social behavior or a lack of exercise. Life without video games and TV might seem boring, but life without friends or hobbies is no life at all.

No child is immune to anger. Helping children learn to deal with anger has two parts. First, teach them self-control, so they can avoid reactive behavior like fighting or vandalism. Second, help them solve the problem causing the anger. After all, anger does not make problems go away, it just makes people go away. If children don't learn to deal with the causes at the root of their anger, acting out can become a habit that lasts a lifetime, so it is vital to help them find emotional balance and wellbeing.

Help you children pursue their dreams. Visit the library to check out books on various

occupations, from photographer to biologist, and biographies and autobiographies of admirable men and women, from Abraham Lincoln to Malala Yousafzai. Books can enable children to find their passions and future careers and to aspire to do good in the world. As you help your children find God's vision for their future, pray together for guidance.

Make prayer a HABIT in your home. Knowing in your heart that God is real is critical, and developing a personal relationship with Him is important. Start with the Lord's Prayer; then help your children find one or more prayer partners. Children who do not pray with others are not as likely to pray on their own. The website www.teachustoprayer.com is helpful.

Catch your children being good. All parents MUST correct bad behavior and show the child how to get it right but GREAT parents delight to catch their children doing or being good. In the end children choose whether to obey their parents or not. If they see love in our hearts they delight to please us. If they do not see or sense love in our hearts their obedience will be shallow perhaps bitter. May we all ask God to help us catch them being or doing good.

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