

Your Heart Connection with Each of Your Children: The Key to Your Spiritual Impact

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If you were an atheist, what would be your highest priority as a parent?

Perhaps:

1. I want my child to be successful.
2. I want my child to be happy.
3. I want my child to be an upright person.

Since you are not an atheist, how is your list of priorities different?

What is YOUR #1—your highest priority?

How does the faith in YOUR heart move to the heart of your child?

A Heart Connection Carries Faith from Parent to Child

A Heart Connection Is a Pipeline

Malachi 4:6 "And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

Jeremiah 24:7 "Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart."

Luke 6:45 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

Imagine I'm a teenage boy . . .

Imagine I'm another teenage boy . . .

When heart connections are broken:

- A younger child has a pipe that is just sucking air.
- An older child or teenager will offer the pipe to peers, with disastrous results.

The person who has the pipe has the influence.

Parent: How do I turn that screw tighter?

Or

Parent: How do I protect the heart connection with my teenager?

Discipline Without Anger

Discipline the way God does.

At Sinai—God had two million kids.

**Deuteronomy 11:26-28 "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse:
27 the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you today;
28 and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God."**

1. Consider an issue you keep dealing with at home.
2. Present to them the "blessing" and the "curse."
3. If they obey, give them the "blessing" you promised.
4. If they disobey, present the "curse" without anger, attacking, or demeaning.

Your daughter gets her driver's license . . .

The only result of anger, shouting, etc. is a broken heart connection

Eph. 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children . . .

The boomerang and Clayton

If you discipline God's way—when they leave home—the heart connection remains.

Speak Words of Blessing, Encouragement, and Love

Romans 14:19 "So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another."

1 Thess 5:11 "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up."

Eph. 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome (putrid) talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Every parent plans to.

Parents who *DO* . . . cement pipes in place

"I am so honored to be your dad."

"I can hardly wait to see you as a mother."

Was your family cold? Break the chain.

Your words have the greatest power.

- Major on majors.
- Avoid constant criticism.
- Build up and encourage.

Spend Time Together

Luke 10:38-39 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching.

40 But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me."

41-42 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Too many extra-curriculars – harm and not help.

Parents – parents balance economic progress against spiritual impact

Facebook and Twitter: "Picture your family's hectic schedule last fall as a whiteboard. It's been wiped clean. Now, pray over each element that you consider adding back. Be certain it helps you achieve Christ's mission for your family."

Does your schedule allow time for one-on-one conversations with full attention?

Does your schedule allow time for conversations about faith? God Moments, etc.

Closing

When I was thirteen, I was a mess.

But later . . .

We are cementing heart connections

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