



POWER IN PARENTING

21 Keys to Powerful Parenting

*“The Lord said, ‘Shall I keep secret from Abraham, my friend and servant, what I am going to do, since Abraham is destined to become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him? For I have known, chosen, acknowledged him as My own, **that he will teach and command his children and the sons of his household after him to keep the way of the Lord** by doing what is righteous and just, so that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He has promised him.’ ” **Genesis 18:17***

The secret & destiny of God for our lives is revealed when we are committed to teaching our children and introducing the next generation to God’s ways!

1. Love rules! Love covers a multitude of sins. Love never fails. Love should be the number one “rule” in your life and in your home. Fill your home with the knowledge of God’s love for you all. And fill your home with love toward each other. Find a way to express this love every day.
2. Be decisive. Fathers and mothers: take your God-given leadership of the home and lead the way. Be consistent with your decisions. When parents disagree, discuss privately. Keep a solid united front. Kids will at times go to the one they feel they can manipulate or will sympathize with them.
3. Have consistent rules. Establish a clear set of rules and expectations **IN WRITING** for your child’s behavior—their manners, their speech, their responsibilities, and most of all how they relate to you and others in the household. Be sure to have specific and fair consequences and rewards.
4. Execute your rules consistently **AND** without emotion. Don’t add emotion for emphasis when you are teaching them. Keep your voice calm and steady. Guard against manipulating them with emotions, guilt or with your non-verbal communication.
5. Consequences must be appropriate. The punishment must fit the crime. Also, don’t promise what you can’t keep. Remember, consistency is the key. When you say you are going to issue a consequence or reward, do it. Make sure the consequences are understood **BEFORE** the actions are committed. Most actions fall into a small number of categories that can be established in advance.
6. When a child disobeys, correct them right away. Also don’t threaten—say it once. Then back it up. Don’t tolerate their poor behavior and then suddenly, out of frustration, demonstrate anger towards your child.
7. Always correct and discipline your child so that their best and highest development of character will result. Do everything *for their good* and not because it relieves tension in your life. Train them to be self-governed; train them to hear that voice of “conscience” inside of them.

8. Don't divide the child from the other parent. Teach them to honor that parent, as there is great promise and blessing where there is honor. (Ephesians 6:2) Parents must demonstrate a united front. (Even when divorced, seek this unity for the sake of partnering in raising your children.) Deal with disagreements privately. (This applies with your child's school as well. Don't divide the child from the teacher.) Be united with their educator in your communication with your student.

9. Understand children are sensitive. Strife, disappointments in life, pressure at work...these are things your children will intuitively feel. Instead of ignoring or denying it, let them know you are having a hard day. Then tell them you know God is on your side and will help you through. Invite them to pray with you and ask the Lord for help. It's a wonderful teachable moment! Show your tears at times—it helps your children know you have feelings and that they can be safe sharing their emotions with you. Learn to go through the valley of the shadow of death not being afraid because the Lord is with you.

10. Avoid demonstrating "displaced" anger. When things go wrong at work or in life generally, don't take your frustrations out on your children. You may feel like blaming them for the stress you feel. Identify the root of what is bothering you. Then say you're sorry when you have been angry, harsh, overbearing or just flat out wrong. Say you're sorry to your children if you have shown unkindness to your spouse. Again, use it as an opportunity to "model" for your children the right response to trouble.

11. If you're divorced, understand that children often feel they are to blame. Assure them that they are not. Stay peaceful towards your spouse if for no other reason—for the children's sake. Be decent to your ex-husband or ex-wife—they are your child's parent.

12. LOVE. Show affection to your spouse. Children feel secure around that. There are appropriate ways to show your children how you love and cherish one another. This atmosphere of LOVE gives deep security to your children and helps them develop a positive image of marriage for their own future.

13. Spend time with your child. They need one on one time with you. Play games. Read together. Pray together. Laugh together.

14. Parents: Believe you ARE smart. Help them with their homework. Read their papers. Help them with grammar. Make it fun. Help them at a café over a cup of coffee or hot chocolate. Help them take pride in their work. When they succeed, celebrate them. Be sure all of your children feel they are special to you.

15. Teach your children that good manners matter MOST at home. Expect them to demonstrate the manners of kindness, courtesy, etiquette and love at home. Then when your children visit others, they will be in the habit of demonstrating good manners.

16. Teach your children that their siblings are their best friends. Make family a priority.

17. The Dinner Table: The family altar. Don't skip this important aspect of their childhood. Eat together. If you are a single mom or dad with one child, you ARE still a family. Build on that. Ask them questions:
What did you do today that makes you proud of yourself?
What did you do today that you would do differently tomorrow?
What has the Lord spoken to you today?

18. Show affection. Lots of hugs and kisses! And don't let them squirm away or shy away. Confront their fears and worries about being embarrassed, with more love.

19. Keep a book at the table where you write down the things they say, share or pray. Teach them that they CAN hear from God. They are not too young.

20. Have time with your spouse **without** the children. Teach them that your marriage is a priority. If you make the child the center of everything, they will feel insecure their whole life. Also, they grow quickly and move out. Then what will you do? Start now building your relationship with your spouse. That is healthy for everyone.

21. Attend church regularly. How can you lead your family if you won't put yourself in a situation to be led by the Lord? He gives Pastors, teachers, etc. to equip the body...(Eph. 4) Be a spiritual home and build your family on God's covenant promises. That's the ark that will protect you and your family from the darkness and flooding that is happening around you.