

Transformed 4

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There are five key values to impart to your children:

1. Affirmation

The first job God gave Adam was to name the animals. Parents are called to give “identity” to their children. Verbalize your great thoughts about your child. Affirm potential, more than you correct the person. Affirmation is a magnet that will keep your child’s heart knit to yours.

2. Discipline

Affirmation without discipline is disaster.

Hebrews 12:7-9 (NIV) - ⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. ⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live!

Discipline is training, not punishment. Discipline is “intentional pain” designed to stop “future pain.” It does this by providing controlled consequences in an affirming and loving environment. We must correct and coach at pivotal moments, as character is most often forged in the fires of pain, struggle and disappointment. Even Jesus learned obedience from the things he suffered.

Hebrews 5: (TLB) - And even though Jesus was God's Son, he had to learn from experience what it was like to obey when obeying meant suffering.

3. Mutual respect

Your kids will struggle to reciprocate respect when it is not modeled. Give respect before it is earned, give honor “before” it’s due, and they will live up to your expectations. Value the person before the production.

4. Empowerment

Empowerment without discipline is a disaster. Be willing to take a risk on potential. Give authority, not just direction. Parenting is training, not just teaching or instruction.

5. Patience

Ephesians 6:4 (KJV/NIV) – ⁴ And, you fathers/parents, do not exasperate your children: but bring them up in the nurture, warning and admonition of the Lord.

It takes time to grow. However, we don’t want to be feeding a bottle to our children when they are full grown adults. Be willing to walk with them and affirm in the midst of the struggle. Don’t throw away potential because of present dysfunctional behavior. At a person’s darkest moments is when you have the greatest entrance into their hearts.