

## HANDOUTS - PARENTING

(1)

*Who taught my child to love so selfishly?*

*"Surely not I!" I quickly say,*

*But then when I face reality,*

*Part is from Adam, and much is from me.*

(Paul D. Meier)

(2)

### BEATITUDES FOR PARENTS

*Blessed are the parents who invest themselves in their children,  
for they shall inherit the kingdom.*

*Blessed are the parents who know how to comfort,  
for they shall receive their children's devotion.*

*Blessed are the parents who are never shocked,  
for they shall receive their children's confidence.*

*Blessed are the parents who teach respect,  
for they shall be respected.*

*Blessed are the parents who emphasize the good and minimize the bad,  
for they shall see like evaluations reflected in their children.*

*Blessed are the parents who will sacrifice for their children in a time of their need,  
for they shall receive treasures of love in their old age.*

*Blessed are the parents who have love strong enough to withstand the thoughtless remarks of a  
growing child,  
for again in due time they shall be honored.*

(3)

## MODELS - Security and Significance

### Abstract Thinking

Simple question: "What is heavier? A pound of feathers or a pound of stones?"



Coins:

- Take 20 coins and put them in two equal stacks of 10.
- Which one has more coins?
- Lay out one stack and ask which pile has more coins

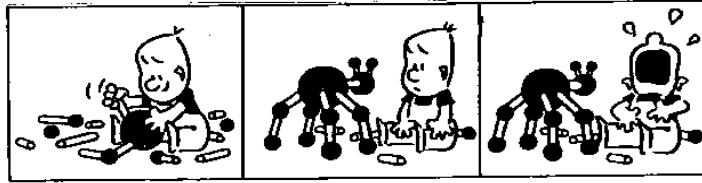


Water Glasses:

Fill two equal size glasses to the same point with water.

- Show they are both filled equally with water.
- Pour the contents of one glass into a narrower glass.
- Which one has the most water?

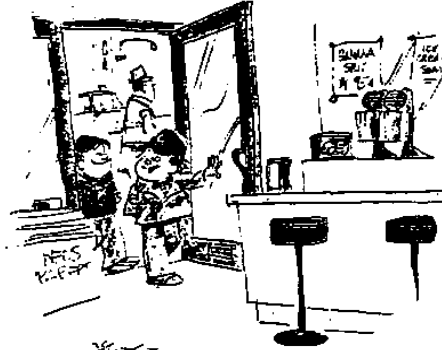
EXAMPLES OF THE INABILITY TO REASON ABSTRACTLY



VASAN SHIRVANN



"Grandma, you're so nice to me. How come you never had any kids of your own?"



"I don't believe in the tooth fairy, but my mom and dad do."

EXAMPLES OF THE ABILITY TO THINK ABSTRACTLY



"Classified ads? Rare pet for sale - streamlined body, turret top, retractable landing gear and mobile home."



"How come it's reasoning when you argue with me, but when I argue with you it's 'talking back'?"

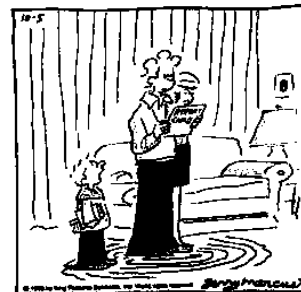
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"You have to learn numbers so you can telephone people."



"Simple. I just raised my hand in class, asked if I could go to the bathroom, and here I am!"



"When you think of all that fish I ate that was supposed to be 'brain food'!"

(5)

## RULES

Boundaries give a sense of **security** because:

- They give boundaries that provide a sense of love
- They are a statement between right and wrong

(6)

Rule categories:

- Absolute moral rules are God's laws that are binding in all situations always
- Abiding moral rules are God's laws that may be broken to uphold a higher rule
- Rules for strategy are practical rules that have consequences from choices made
- Rules of propriety are non-moral rules of ethics

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### How to Determine the Types of Rules

Of each rule made, ask yourself:

1. Is it a moral issue?
2. If so, can it be set aside to obey a higher rule?
3. Are there consequences?
4. What is proper?



(8)

### Seven Golden rules for Making Rules



1. Keep non-moral issues separate from moral issues - or bondage results.
2. Keep moral issues separate from non-moral issues - or sin results.
3. Say what you mean and mean what you say with your rules.
4. State rules positively whenever possible.
5. Keep them simple and to the point.
6. Redefine rules as your child matures.
7. Make and uphold the rules **together** as parents.

(9)

### Family Check List



To help you arrange your own family guidelines in the appropriate category, place the following list of rules under one of the four kinds of rules. Make four columns on a piece of paper with the four kinds of rules as headings for each column - **ABSOLUTE MORAL RULES; ABIDING MORAL RULES; RULES OF STRATEGY; RULES OF PROPRIETY**. Now write down each of

the following rules under one of the categories.

1. Don't talk with your mouth full.
2. Say please and thank you.
3. Do to others, as you would have them do to you.
4. Don't watch age restricted movies/videos.
5. Don't use foul language (cursing, swearing).
6. Don't live in debt.
7. Wait until marriage to have sex.

8. Don't lie.
9. Don't drive without a driver's license.
10. Don't buy stolen goods.
11. Drive within the speed limit.
12. Don't cheat on a test/exam.
13. Don't cover up for the wrongs of others.
14. Go to church meetings on Sundays.
15. Give to the Lord in proportion to what you receive.
16. Read your Bible and pray every day.
17. Eat everything that is put on a plate before you.
18. Don't laugh when someone gets hurt.
19. Listen carefully to others.
20. Go to bed at a certain time.
21. Wash your hands before you eat.

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### Susannah's Rules for Rearing Children

Susannah Wesley, mother of 19 children, including Charles and John Wesley, didn't go to textbooks for her theories on child guidance. Though over **two hundred** years old, her rules are still valid today for teaching a child to be obedient and to *cry softly*. Record your own below hers:

1. Allow no eating between meals.
2. Put all children in bed by eight o' clock.
3. Require them to take medicine without complaining.
4. Subdue self-will in a child and thus work together with God to save his soul.
5. Teach each one to pray as soon as he can speak.
6. Require all to be still during family worship.
7. Give them nothing that they cry for, and only that which they ask for politely.
8. To prevent lying, punish no fault that is first confessed and repented of.
9. Never allow a sinful act to go unpunished.
10. Never punish a child twice for the same offence.
11. Commend and reward all good behavior.
12. Any attempt to please, even if poorly performed, should be commended.
13. Preserve property rights, even in the smallest matters.
14. Strictly observe all promises.
15. Require no daughter to work before she can read well.
16. Teach children to fear the rod.

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### Application of Rules

Ephesians 5:21 (Submit); Ephesians 6:1 (Obey)

- Each family member: Submit: *I place myself willingly under you.*
- Children: Obey: *I hear what you are saying, and I will do it.*



(12)

### Ten Easy Steps for Developing Your Normal, Healthy Baby into a Drug Addict or Alcoholic

1. Spoil him; give him everything he wants if you can afford it.
2. When he does wrong, you may nag him, but never give him a spanking (hiding) - unless he is showing signs of independence.
3. Promote his dependence on you, so drugs and alcohol can replace you when he is older.
4. Protect him from your husband and from all those mean teachers who threaten to spank him from time to time. Sue them if you wish.
5. Make all his decisions for him, since you are a lot older and wiser than he is. He might make mistakes and learn from them if you don't.
6. Criticize his father openly, so your son can lose his self-respect and confidence.
7. Always bail him out of trouble so he will like you. Besides, he might harm your reputation if he gets a police record. Never let him suffer the consequences of his own behavior.
8. Always step in and solve his problems for him, so he can depend on you and run to you when the going gets tough. Then when he is older and still hasn't learned how to solve his own problems, he can continue to run from them through drugs and alcohol.
9. Just to play it safe, be sure to dominate your husband and drive him to drink too, if you can.
10. Take lots of prescription drugs yourself, so that taking non-prescription drugs won't be a major step for him.



(13)

### How to Develop an Obsessive (Compulsive) Child

1. Talk all the time, but don't be very active physically, and never listen to what your child has to say.
2. Expect perfect etiquette and manners from your child from his day of birth on. Don't tolerate any mistakes.
3. Be an introvert. Don't let him see you interacting in a healthy manner with other human beings.
4. Be very critical of the people around you - this includes those who minister to you, your teachers, your neighbors, your husband and, most importantly, your child.
5. Be a real snob.
6. Be sure to domineer your husband as well as your children. This is very important.
7. Emphasize instrumental morality (good works) as a way of being superior to other children, or of getting to heaven.
8. Don't make any serious comments to God yourself, and be critical of the religious convictions of your child's grandparents.
9. Tell your child to be completely toilet-trained by the time he is twelve months old. Then, when he grows older, he can get even with you by being constipated much of the time.
10. Tell your child that his father is the boss, but in reality, allow your husband to be nothing but a figurehead.
11. Be a real miser with your money. Always hoard for the future, and don't let that future ever come.
12. Emphasize the letter of the law rather than the spirit of the law. Make your rules quite rigid, and never allow any exceptions.
13. Practice the Victorian ethic (sex is bad and evil in itself). Shame your child for being a sexual being.



## INTERDEPENDENCE

Interdependence gives a sense of **significance** because:

- It adds meaning to life
- It changes us from being Takers to Givers

Look at the process involved in leading our children into an interdependent life - a life of Givers. It begins with the first two stages of life: Dependence, followed by Independence.

Dependence: Infancy - 15 months:

- Basic trust is developed, based on how trustworthy mother is in meeting basic needs.
- Indulged infants learn entitlement very early.
- Deprived infants learn hostility and resentment as a lifestyle.
- Beyond 15 months, social and affection needs become as important as physical needs.
- Exploration is essential to learn respect for others.
- Sharing deals with selfishness, which builds self-sufficiency for the next stage.

Independence: Children who learn independence:

- Make decisions that include giving for the benefit of those around them.
- Selfishness was addressed during those dependent years by training them to share.
- Underdeveloped children learn manipulation and bullying to get an upper hand in their social context.
- Prepares children for a life as Givers.

Interdependence:

- Failure to learn independence prevents interdependence. Selfishness (narcissism) rules.
- Self-sufficiency (selflessness) brings about right living.
- Needs, desires and wants are distinguished.
- Genuine interest in others.

Practical Steps to Interdependence:

- *Genuine Love*: Parents love each other and their children. The greatest favor a father can do for his children is to love their mother.
- *Discipline*: Parents agree on how to nurture their children with discipline.
- *Consistency*: Both parents implement the same rules with their children.
- *Example*: Parents model the standards their children are to live by.
- *Leadership*: Parents are to provide supportive roles in leading their children.

Learn about the stages of your child's development:

Prenatal - Newborn - Infants (birth - 15 months) - Toddlers (15-36 months) - Preschoolers (ages 3-6) - Elementary school years (ages 6-12) - Early adolescence (ages 12-16) - Mid- and late adolescence (ages 17-18). See recommended reading at end.

**CHALLENGE TO PARENTS**

"If you had ten weeks in which to teach your parents about parenting, what topics would you cover?" Their responses (in no order of importance):



*Keep your promises.*

*Be honest.*

*Have good manners - don't be rude.*

*Teach us about the facts of life.*

*Trust us.*

*Don't be over-protective.*

*Listen to us.*

*Be fair.*

*Teach us what is right and wrong.*

*Treat us how you want to be treated.*

*Have time together with us.*

*Take time together alone as husband and wife.*

*Teach us how to use our money properly.*

*Don't waste.*

*Be reliable.*

*Be sure to give.*

*Respect us.*

*Be patient with us.*

*Love each other as husband and wife.*

*Don't fight, especially with each other.*

*Don't threaten us.*

*Don't show favoritism.*

*Don't try and make us what you want us to be.*

*Don't be jealous.*

*Don't brag.*

*Don't steal.*

*Don't cheat.*

*Be yourself.*

*Don't hate others.*

*Don't take out your frustrations on us.*



*Don't tease each other or us.*

*Be friendly.*

*Don't bribe.*

*Don't kill.*

*Don't commit adultery.*

*Don't covet.*

*If you don't keep good company, don't expect us to.*

*Don't impose your music tastes on us.*

*Appreciate our music tastes.*

*Allow us to dress modestly and in fashion.*

*Don't worship idols.*

*Say, "I love you."*

*Be thankful.*

*Don't use bad language.*

*Be a good example.*

*Have family devotions together.*

*Teach us to do our best.*

*Don't try and make us perfect.*

*Care for us as **your** children - don't have others do that.*

*Take care of **your** own babies.*

*Have proper reasons for giving spankings.*

*Don't spoil us.*

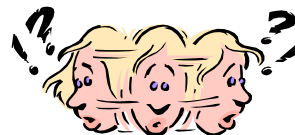
*Respect your Bible School teachers.*

*Allow us to make choices.*

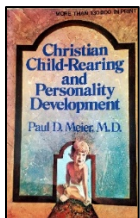
*Remember that two wrongs don't make a right.*

*Accept personal failures.*

*Accept our failures.*



Parents, how is your modelling in these areas?



Recommended reading:

CHRISTIAN CHILD-REARING AND PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

By Paul D. Meier, M.D. Baker Book House, 1977

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