

Improved Parent/Child Relationship

Rules Without Relationship = Rebellion

Relationships:

- As part of your Time Stewardship, look at how much time you spend with your children.
- Do you read to the younger ones regularly?
- Are TV and radio off at meal times so there can be quiet and discussion? Are TV and radio off most of the day so there can be other forms of brain development?
- How much time are you doing activities with them: school work, Bible reading, volunteering praying?
- Teach Your Children to:
 - ~ read carefully
 - ~ think critically
 - ~ ask the right questions
 - ~ say please and thank you
 - ~ distinguish between data and interpretations; facts and assumptions
 - ~ know worldviews, bias and presuppositions

Rules:

- Requests give action options and do not have yes or no answers.
- "Please pick these up." (Not: "Would you please...". Also, do not add OK at the end of the request. These turn the request from an action required to a yes or no question.)
- Sometimes you can give them the choice of two actions. "Which do you want to do first, brush your teeth or have me read the book to you before you go to bed?"
- If they do not immediately do the action requested then say, "Either pick it up now or have a time out and then pick it up. Which is it going to be?"
- If they don't choose, then the time-out begins immediately. You must always follow up immediately with consequences. Failure to do so will create disobedience and a rebellion. Consistency is critical to make any form of discipline work. Consistency makes a child feel secure.
- If they choose to do it then say, "That was a good choice."
- If they had a time out, then at the end of it you need to tell them why they had the time out (3 and younger) and when they are old enough, ask them to tell you why they had the time out.
- If they intentionally disobey and a time-out does not work, then it is time for a spanking. Spanking can not be out of anger. They need to have been warned that a spanking will result if they fail to do something. Then it must be given if they decide to disobey. You start the spanking process with asking them why they are going to get a spanking, give the spanking and then ask them why they got the spanking and finish with an "I love you" and a hug.
- As the child gets to be 3 and older, you can begin to give them answers to "why" questions that arise from a request. Begin to help your child understand that your job is to keep them safe and their job is to obey. "Why can't I climb on the table?" "What do you think could happen if you climbed on the table? I love you and want you to be safe so I tell you to do things that will keep you safe." Then explain that if they climbed on the table they could fall off and get hurt.