

GAINING OUR CHILDREN'S HEARTS

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I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE OUR CHILDREN'S HEARTS?

Proverbs 23:26 My son, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways

A. To have their hearts means they are motivated by _____ for you, not just by _____ of your

*Deu 10:12 And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to **fear the LORD** your God, to walk in all his ways, to **love him**, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,*

*Rom 11:22 Behold then the **kindness and severity of God**; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.*

*Rom 2:4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that **God's kindness leads you toward repentance**?*

*Phile 1:8 Therefore, although in Christ **I could be bold and order you** to do what you ought to do,⁹ yet **I appeal to you on the basis of love**. I then, as Paul--an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus--*

B. Be careful. Do not be content merely because your children are very

1. It is possible to _____ them into _____, but fail to _____ their

Mat 21:28 "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' 29 "I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. 30 "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

2. Intimidation may foster _____ and strengthen the will.

C. If we do not reach their hearts before adolescence, _____ may result:

1. As teens they may easily become _____ us.

2. We will have little ability to _____

3. They will be far more vulnerable to _____ and _____ influences they face in the world.

D. How do we gain influence over their hearts?

1. We will fail to gain their hearts if we _____

Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

2. We will fail to gain their hearts if we strive to _____ their

3. We must live out the gospel _____ in our home.

Mal 4:6 He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

4. We will more likely gain their hearts if we _____ them as _____ people.

1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

II. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE THEM?

Rom 2:4b ...God's kindness leads you toward repentance

A. _____ them for who they are

1. Do you communicate to them that you are never completely _____, _____, or _____ with them or their efforts?

2. If our kids fail to find our acceptance, they will welcome it from the _____ or _____ who offers it.

3. Jesus _____ in his experience with the woman at the well (John 4:4-42)

⇒ He did not agree with her moral choices, but _____ no

⇒ He did not return her

⇒ He was _____ with her

4. Are you a _____ person for your children?

⇒ Listen to their feelings without immediately giving them the _____ you think they need.

⇒ Values come out of the _____ and _____ who a person
Luke 6:45 ... out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

⇒ If their values are immature, then devise a plan to _____ the _____ that _____ those values.

5. Consider: Is it possible you have difficulty accepting your children as they are, because you do not believe _____ you as you

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us...10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

B. _____ to them when they share their heart

1. Begin to give them opportunities to _____ with you.
2. Be _____ with their heart. Following a leader requires
3. Share with them _____ or _____ you are having in your own life.

C. _____ them when they offend you

1. Abiding _____ will _____ you and them
Eph 4:26 "In your anger do not sin" : Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.
Heb 12:15 See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.
2. Give them continued _____. Don't _____ of them.
Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
3. Don't bring up _____ and _____ them for them time and again
Heb 10:17 Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."
4. Ask _____ of them
Mat 5:23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.
5. Do not _____ your anger
James 1:20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

D. Express _____ to them in _____ ways

1. _____ Be _____ toward them.
1 Th 2:7 but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.
Isa 66:13a As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you ...
2. _____ Discipline yourself to _____ at them.
Prov 16:15 When a king's face brightens, it means life; his favor is like a rain cloud in spring.
Mark 10:21a Jesus looked at him and loved him...
3. _____ Remove the _____ at the end of their name.
*Eph 6:4a **Fathers, do not exasperate your children...***
*1 Th 2:11 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, 12 **encouraging, comforting and urging** you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.*
4. _____ Are they _____ or _____
1 Tim 3:4a He must manage his own family well ...