

Spirit-Filled Parenting **Ephesians 6:1-4**

Ephesians 5:18-21

Ephesians 6:1-4

The Kingdom of Life and the Kingdom of Death

- John 10:10 1 Peter 2:17 Romans 12:10
- Honor – to respect, esteem highly, bless, lift up, promote, elevate another’s statues
- Daniel 2:48
- 1 John 4:19

Our allegiance is first to God then to other human authorities

- Acts 5:28-29
- Government: Romans 13:1
- Church: Hebrews 13:17

Ephesians 6:2-3

- Colossians 3:20 Matthew 6:31-33, Luke 16:10-11

Ephesians 6:4

- “...rules our excessively severe discipline, unreasonably harsh demands, abuse of authority, arbitrariness, unfairness, constant nagging and condemnation, subjecting a child to humiliation and all forms of gross insensitivity to a child’s needs and sensibilities” - Andrew Lincoln, NT scholar
- The Five Gospels

Be consistent. Parenting shouldn’t depend on your mood. Make sure your kids can count on the same outcomes no matter how you feel. For instance, if your kid is screaming for candy in the store and one day you are tired so you give it to them, you just taught your child that if they throw a fit, eventually they will get their way.

Don’t yell. If your voice has to escalate before you finally act, then you are teaching your kids that you don’t mean what you say until the volume of your voice reaches a certain pitch. Your delayed response also sends a message that they should listen to you because you are angry, not because you have their best in mind.

Teach your kids HOW to think by giving them choices. For example, if they are making noise in the living room and you want them out of your way, say something like, “Do you want to play in your room, or would you rather play in the back yard?”

Correct attitudes before they become an action. All behavior begins with a thought, which manifests in an attitude, that finally becomes an action. Therefore, bad actions begin with wrong thoughts. When you correct an attitude, you are teaching your kids how to manage their inner-world so that they don’t make a mess of their outer world.

Be the first one to inform your kids about any important subject. The principle of first mention says that the first time we hear something about any subject, we receive it as the truth. Everything else we

receive on that same subject (after our first exposure) will be weighed against our first experience, and embraced or rejected accordingly. For example, if you wait until your kids are 15 years old to tell them about sex and therefore their friends tell them first, they will compare what you taught them to what their friends have told them. If what you shared was opposite of their friend's counsel, they are likely to reject your input and embrace theirs. On the other hand, if you tell them first, they are most likely to view their friend's counsel as wrong.

Don't be a helicopter mom or dad. Let children learn from their own experiences whenever possible. When you see them doing something wrong and it doesn't have severe consequences, let them experiment. They learn more from their mistakes than they do from their successes.

Don't compare your children to one another. If you do, you will teach them to live a competitive life, constantly measuring themselves against each other. The goal is for each of our children to be fully actualized. In other words, we want each one of them to be who God created them to be. We don't want them to become an imitation of someone else.

Speak positively into your children's lives. When you say, "You are so smart, gifted, honest, talented, etc.," it actually releases those qualities into your kids. Don't call your kids names, or curse them with titles! You are the most powerful person in their lives.

Never stop believing in your children! Let them know that they can become anything they want in life. Be their biggest fan, their cheerleader, and their catalyst to greatness.

Teach your kids how to solve conflicts by allowing them to watch you solve yours. Don't shelter them from watching you and your spouse work through your issues (unless of course, you guys don't behave honorably). You have to use wisdom on this one, but your kids need to understand that every healthy relationship has its struggles. They need great tools to solve conflicts, not avoid them.

Let your home be full of affection for them and for your spouse. Be affectionate with your spouse in front of them so that they learn what love looks like. Hug and kiss them often, even in their teen years. Teach your children how to honor others, especially authority. Don't talk negatively about teachers, pastors, bosses, police officers, politicians, elders etc. The fact is, your kids will not be able to live successfully in society without a healthy respect for authority. How will they keep their job if they can't do what is asked of them?

Let your children "catch you" loving on Jesus. Walking in on their father or mother kneeling at their bed praying is ten times more powerful than telling your kids to pray. Reading your Bible every day on the couch in the living room sends a powerful visual statement to your kids that you value spiritual things. Remember, people are changed through observation, not by argument.