

PARENTING BY THE BOOK
TRAINING OUR CHILDREN IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Psalm 133:1 (NASB)

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers/sisters to dwell together in **unity!**

1. REVIEW

A. **THE GOAL OF THIS SERIES IS TO HELP PARENTS TEACH CHILDREN, BY THEIR WORDS AND BY THEIR ACTIONS, TO FOLLOW SCRIPTURAL INSTRUCTIONS WHEN RESPONDING (NOT REACTING) TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE WRONGED OR OFFENDED THEM... ESPECIALLY THEIR SIBLINGS.**

1. **TEACHING OUR CHILDREN BY WORDS AND ACTIONS TO FOLLOW SCRIPTURAL INSTRUCTIONS WHEN RESPONDING (NOT REACTING) TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE WRONGED OR OFFENDED THEM IS ONE OF A PARENT'S MOST IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITIES.**

2. STEPS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION FOR VERY YOUNG CHILDREN (USING THE CHART).

A. **GO TO THE CHART WHEN CONFLICTS ARISE.**

1. **GO THROUGH THE STEPS TOWARD RESOLUTION WITH BOTH CHILDREN.**

2. **GUIDE THEM THROUGH THE STEPS TOWARD RESOLUTION.**

3. **HOLD COURT (PARENTAL INTERVENTION) IF NECESSARY.**

a. **REMEMBER: YOU ARE TRYING TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN HOW TO RESOLVE THEIR OWN CONFLICTS.**

1) **NOT RESOLVE THEM YOURSELF!**

3. STEPS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION FOR OLDER CHILDREN BEFORE CONFLICTS ARISE.

A. **POST THE CHART**

B. **READ THROUGH THE BOOK TOGETHER**

C. **READ THROUGH THE CHART TOGETHER**

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1. **EXPLAIN** THAT YOUR CHILDREN SHOULD **GO TO THE CHART FIRST... BEFORE** THEY INVOLVE ANYONE ELSE IN THE CONFLICT.

D. WALK YOUR CHILDREN THROUGH AN IMAGINARY CONFLICT:

1. USING THE CHART **TEACH** THE **OFFENDED** HOW THEY SHOULD **RESPOND**.
2. USING THE CHART **TEACH** THE **OFFENDER** HOW THEY SHOULD **RESPOND**.

4. STEPS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION FOR OLDER CHILDREN AFTER CONFLICTS ARISE.

A. SEND THE CHILD WHO COMES RUNNING TO YOU TO COMPLAIN (THE **OFFENDED, THE **OFFENDER**, OR **BOTH**) TO THE **CHART** TO **SEEK RESOLUTION**.**

1. **LISTEN** TO SEE IF **ONE OR BOTH** OF THEM **FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE PROPER STEPS AND REACH RESOLUTION**:
 - 1) **SHARING**
 - 2) **OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD**
 - 3) **OVERLOOKING THE OFFENSE**
 - 4) **TALKING THE ISSUE OUT**

B. IF THE OFFENDED OR THE OFFENDER DO NOT RESOLVE THEIR CONFLICT IN THE PROPER WAY:

1. TAKE **EACH CHILD ASIDE, ONE AT A TIME**, AND **GUIDE THEM THROUGH THE PROCESS**.
 - a. **HELP THEM TO HONESTLY EXAMINE THEIR OWN ATTITUDES**.
 - b. **TEACH THEM HOW TO PROPERLY RESOLVE THEIR PART OF THE CONFLICT**.

2. **DISCUSSION**: YES... **INITIALLY THIS PROCESS IS VERY TIME CONSUMING IN THE BEGINNING**.

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- a. THAT'S WHY IT IS CALLED A **PROCESS**.
- b. HOWEVER...
 - 1) THE **RESULTS WILL BE WORTH THE INVESTMENT**.
 - i. FOR **PARENTS AND CHILDREN**
 - 2) **DISCUSS**: THE POTENTIAL **RESULTS**.
- c. **THE REAL ISSUE**: WILL YOU **COMMIT** TO MAKE THIS **INVESTMENT OF YOUR TIME?**...
 - 1) FOR **YOU** AND FOR **YOUR CHILDREN**.
 - i. THE **REWARDS ARE ETERNAL!**
- C. **AFTER INSTRUCTING ONE, OR BOTH, SIDES... SEND THEM BACK TO THE CHART AGAIN TO SEEK RESOLUTION**.
 1. **LISTEN**:
 - a. TO SEE IF THE **OFFENDED** CHILD IS **WILLING TO OVERLOOK THE OFFENSE**.
 - 1) AND **APPROACH** THE **OFFENDER** IN THE **PROPER WAY**.
 - b. TO SEE IF THE **OFFENDER** IS **CONFESSING** THEIR WRONG AND **ASKING FOR FORGIVENESS**.
- D. **IF THE OFFENDED AND THE OFFENDER RESOLVE THE CONFLICT ENCOURAGE BOTH FOR THEIR OBEDIENCE IN RESOLVING THE CONFLICT**.
- E. **CAVEAT: THIS PROCESS DOES NOT EXCUSE THE PARENT FROM THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO DISCIPLINE FOR ANY SINFUL BEHAVIOR THAT OCCURRED**.
 1. **UNKIND WORDS, NAME CALLING, SELFISHNESS, HITTING, TAKING REVENGE, TAKING ANOTHER'S POSSESSIONS, ETC.**

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2. PARENTS MUST HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES FOR SIN... EVEN WHEN THAT SIN IS CONFESSED AND FORGIVEN.

a. THE "GOOD NEWS" IS THAT JESUS PAID THE PRICE FOR OUR SIN... YET IN MANY WAYS WE STILL SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR SINS.

b. NATURAL CONSEQUENCES

1) THE LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING

2) Galatians 6:7 (NASB) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

3) SOMETIMES THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN ARE PENALTIES.

i. DISCUSS

c. INSTRUCTIONAL CONSEQUENCES

1) James 1:2-4 (NASB) Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2) SOMETIMES THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN ARE TO INSTRUCT US

i. DISCUSS

d. DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES

1) Hebrews 12:5-6 (NASB) and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE **DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD**, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE **DISCIPLINES**, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."

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2) **SOMETIMES THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN ARE TO DISCIPLINE US**

i. **DISCUSS**

e. **THE BOTTOM LINE: PARENTS SHOULD TEACH THEIR CHILDREN:**

1) **THAT WHILE THEIR SINS CAN ALWAYS BE FORGIVEN... SIN STILL HAS CONSEQUENCES.**

F. **THE FINAL STEP: PARENTS MAY NEED TO CALL A "COURT SESSION" IF THEIR CHILDREN CANNOT COME TO A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THEIR CONFLICTS AFTER FOLLOWING THE PRECEDING STEPS.**

G. **IF PARENTS WILL DILIGENTLY AND PRAYERFULLY TEACH THEIR CHILDREN CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION:**

1. **THERE WILL BE MORE LOVE AND PEACE AND JUSTICE IN OUR HOMES.**

2. **OUR CHILDREN WILL LEARN TO RESPECT AUTHORITY.**

3. **OUR CHILDREN WILL LEARN NOT TO BECOME GOSSIPS.**

4. **OUR CHILDREN WILL LEARN HOW TO FORGIVE OTHERS.**

5. **OUR CHILDREN WILL LEARN HOW TO CONFESS AND REPENT.**

6. **OUR CHILDREN WILL LEARN HOW TO LIVE AT PEACE WITH OTHERS BOTH INSIDE, AND OUTSIDE OF, THE FAMILY.**

5. **WHAT THE BIBLE TELLS THE OFFENDED BROTHER/SISTER TO DO:**

A. **DO NOT BE IN A HURRY TO TELL SOMEONE ELSE WHEN YOU ARE OFFENDED.**

B. **REMOVE "THE PLANK" FROM YOUR OWN EYE FIRST.**

1. **QUESTIONS TO DISCOVER YOUR OWN PLANK:**

a. **ARE YOU BEING EASILY PROVOKED?**

b. **ARE YOU THINKING OF YOURSELF FIRST?**

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- c. **ARE YOU REPAYING EVIL WITH EVIL?**
- C. **BE A PEACEMAKER.**
 - 1. **QUESTIONS TO DISCOVER IF YOU ARE BEING A PEACEMAKER**
 - a. **ARE YOU BEING PATIENT?**
 - b. **ARE YOU SHARING?**
 - c. **ARE YOU TRYING TO STOP A CONFLICT?**
 - d. **ARE YOU OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD?**
- D. **GO TO THE PERSON WHO OFFENDED YOU.**
- E. **IF THE OFFENDER REPENTS... FORGIVE THEM.**
- F. **IF THE OFFENDER DOES NOT REPENT... GO BACK WITH WITNESSES.**
- G. **DO NOT REJOICE IN THE OFFENDER'S WRONGDOING.**
- H. **IF THE OFFENDER STILL DOES NOT REPENT... GO TO YOUR PARENTS.**
- I. **REMEMBER... THE OBJECT IS TO TEACH OUR CHILDREN HOW TO RESOLVE THEIR OWN CONFLICTS!**

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