

A Letter to

parents

One of the missing ingredients in so many families today is honest, open communication with each other. Instead of "talking things out", family members let "the sun go down on their anger". Because of this, many homes are full of family members who are more strangers than loving advocates. These family members are filling up with resentment over things that have happened over a period of days, weeks, months and even years. Stacks and stacks of unforgiveness mount up over even the most trivial things. This leaves these family members full of bitterness and turmoil, and it begins to show up in other areas of their lives, in and out of the home. It is important for us as spiritual leaders in our homes to be "witnesses" of what right relationships are all about. We must keep short accounts when it comes to forgiving each other. "Love keeps no record of wrongs", even if someone is keeping them against us. We must be willing to humble ourselves and ask forgiveness when we have offended our children wrongly! This will teach them that it is a good thing to humble ourselves and admit wrong, when we are wrong. This will also show them that their feelings are important to you, and that they are very important to you. They need you so much! That's why God has placed them under your earthly care!

**Pray
For Our
Children**

As a youth leader I encounter many of these hurts. My desire is to help resolve them in a Biblical and Christlike manner. I encourage teens to submit to the authority of their parents and I pray that these christian parents will follow biblical guidelines also in their relationships with their children. However, sometimes I am amazed at the unloving, unbiblical approach that some of these teens encounter in their homes. As a parent, it is my responsibility and yours to seek out Godly wisdom in regards to parenting. The Bible is full of insight and direction in regards to this subject. We all spend lots of valuable time learning other important things. We must study to be Godly parents. Our children are the greatest gift that God could ever give us, we must treat them as such. They have been entrusted to us by a very loving God who wants nothing but the best for us and for our children. God expects us to love them and allow them to love us the way He has designed in His word.



**And these words...
shall be upon your heart;
and you shall teach them
diligently to your children...
-Deuteronomy 6:6-7**



*We kind and compassionate
to one another,
forgiving each other,
just as in Christ
God forgave you
Ephesians 1:12*

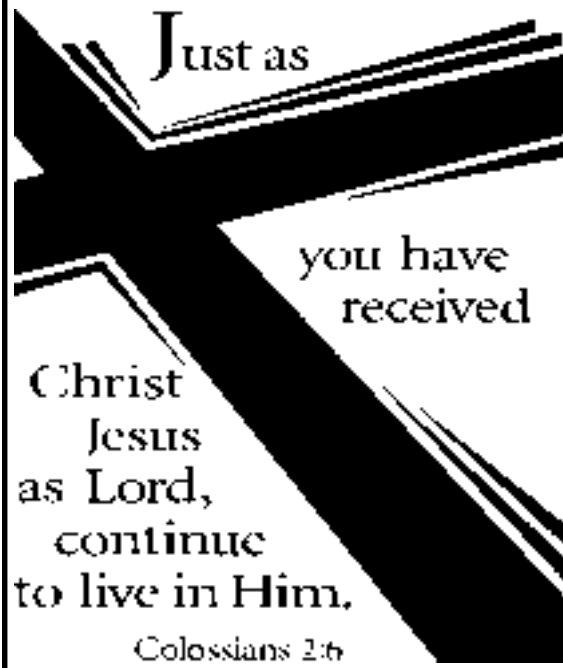
We, as the adults in the situation must be the leaders in word and deed. However, at times our children are faced with a "do as I say, not as I do" mentality of childrearing. In other words, "it's ok. for us to do that, but not for you!". One of the biggest hurdles we face in youth ministry today is the hypocrisy of the adults in their lives. I don't say this critically but lovingly! You and I have a Godly responsibility to love, discipline and live our lives as the finest examples of christianity that our children will encounter anywhere!

Our homes should be the most positive, character and confidence building place that our children will ever find themselves in. When they have to start looking outside the home for their main source of encouragement and approbation, then there is a weak link in our family chain. If children are not getting these needs met at home they will look elsewhere, and it may be from sources we don't like. I believe the closest relationships in our childrens lives should be with us, their parents. If my communication with my child is not flowing, I need to pray, pray, pray that God will make it better, and then do what He shows me to do to make it better.

I do not believe, that as my child's disciplinarian, I should have to distance myself emotionally from them. God is the greatest example of this, He is very stern at times but His love is always beyond measure. Our children should hear very passionate expressions of love and encouragement from us quite often. In this type of environment our children will flourish as a planting of the Lord. Also, our children will be much more responsive to our words of correction when we have been building them up with God's word and our love. Let's not forget it is the "goodness of God that leads us to repentance".

Someone once said that our children are a book that we help to write and publish. What do we want to see written in their lives? Then, very carefully, let's try to write those things on the tables of their hearts.

In His Love,
Brian Weller



Just as
you have
received
Christ
Jesus
as Lord,
continue
to live in Him.
Colossians 2:6

This tract was written by Brian Weller. Brian, his wife Anne and their three children live in St. Petersburg, Florida. Brian has been in ministry for over 25 years and has been involved in ministering to youth through his music ministry and as a youth pastor. The insights Brian expresses in this tract are insights the Lord has shown him through this ministry involvement. His prayer is that God will strengthen all of our families as we follow the biblical guidelines God lays out for us so clearly in His Word.



The Ways
of the Lord
are
Right.
the
Righteous
Walk in Them.
H o s e a 1 4 : 9

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God wants your children to know how much He loves them and how much you love them. **God wants parents to know** how much He wants to love your children through you!