

Championship Fathering

How to Love Your Kids

Dads and Love

- Many fathers don't have a problem running out of love.
 - "But when it comes to expressing love, some dads seem to run out of gas" (p. 52)
 - "Dads often are so afraid of doing the wrong thing that we end up doing nothing" (p. 54)
- How do we overcome this
 - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is Patient

- Patient: “able to accept or tolerate delays, problems, or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious” (NOT frustrated or agitated)
- Examples of patient love
 - Slow down before delivering the law
 - Listen to their side
 - Author’s example of fathering when younger vs. older

Love is Kind

- Kind: “having or showing a friendly, generous, and considerate nature.” (NOT inconsiderate or mean)
- What are some ways we can show kindness to our kids
 - Kids helping around the house
 - Offer to help them while they are helping
 - Take them out – randomly
- Is it easy to be kind to our kids?
- Do they remember when we are kind? Or when we aren't?
- Why be kind?
 - Colossians 3:12
 - Proverbs 11:17

Love is NOT Envious, Boastful, Proud, Rude

- NOT Envious
 - So much time from my wife
 - So much time from me
 - What is the right way to view this?
- NOT Boastful
- NOT Proud
 - Not “I’m proud of you for X, Y, Z” (which is OK) but....
 - “I’m not wrong” or “If I’m wrong, I’m not admitting it”
- NOT Rude
 - Are you giving them proper attention

Love is NOT Self-Seeking

- Self-Seeking: Care about your own welfare / interest before others.
- What is your response when your kids don't want to do something like you
 - No football
 - No soccer
 - No baseball
- Do they know you love them even if they aren't like you

Not Easily Angered; Keeps No Record of Wrongs

- Self-control at work
 - Does that same self-control exist at home?
 - Or is it let loose and you let words/phrases fly at home that you would not say at work
 - “Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing” - Proverbs 12:18
 - Kids remember what you say far longer than you do (whether good or bad)
 - Kids respond better to positive words than negative
- No Record of Wrongs

Does Not Delight in Evil BUT Rejoices with the Truth

- Kids listen/watch our words
- When injured or irritated, how do you respond
 - Profanity?
 - Irritable phrases?
 - Forgiving?

Protects, Trusts, Hopes, Perseveres

- Love ALWAYS Protects
 - God is our protector
 - We protect our kids
- Love ALWAYS Trusts
 - Give benefit of the doubt
- Love ALWAYS Hopes
 - See potential in others (your kids)
- Love ALWAYS Perseveres
 - Stick with it

Love that Listens

- “I wish you would LISTEN” (theme from conference from daughters to fathers)
 - Listen before you speak
 - Just listen; I don’t need answers
 - Don’t always punish or I won’t always tell truth
 - “Don’t talk; don’t argue; just listen”
- We sometimes abuse our power of authority -- often unintentionally

Love Your Children

- Of course, you know you love your children BUT
 - Do THEY know you love them
 - Praise them for things they do well
 - Express affection to your children
 - Tell them they are special to you
 - Have a close bond with your child
 - Tell them you are proud of them
 - Listen *carefully* when they express their concerns
 - Point out qualities in your child that you like