

PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN PARENTING

The 5 Love Languages for Children

“How to show my child that I love them?”



THE GREATEST GIFT

- **Genesis 1:28 and 9:1**

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it

So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth

- **Psalm 127**

Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD,
The fruit of the womb *is* a reward.

⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,
So *are* the children of one’s youth.

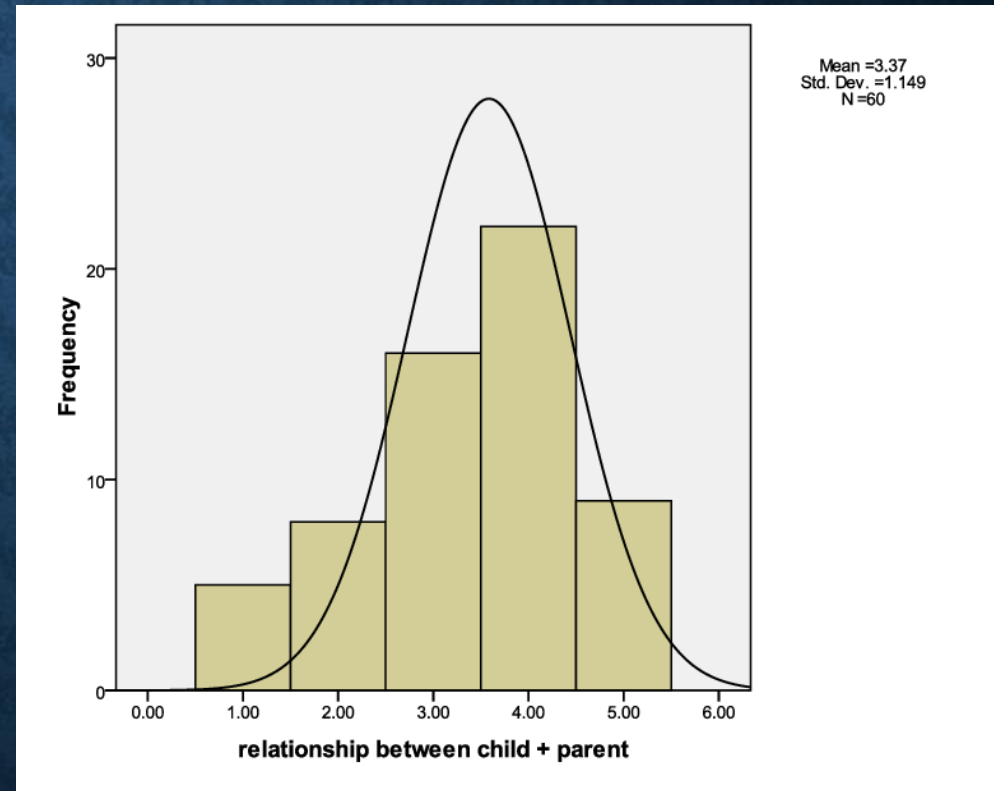
⁵ Happy *is* the man who has his quiver full of
them

THE GREATEST GIFT

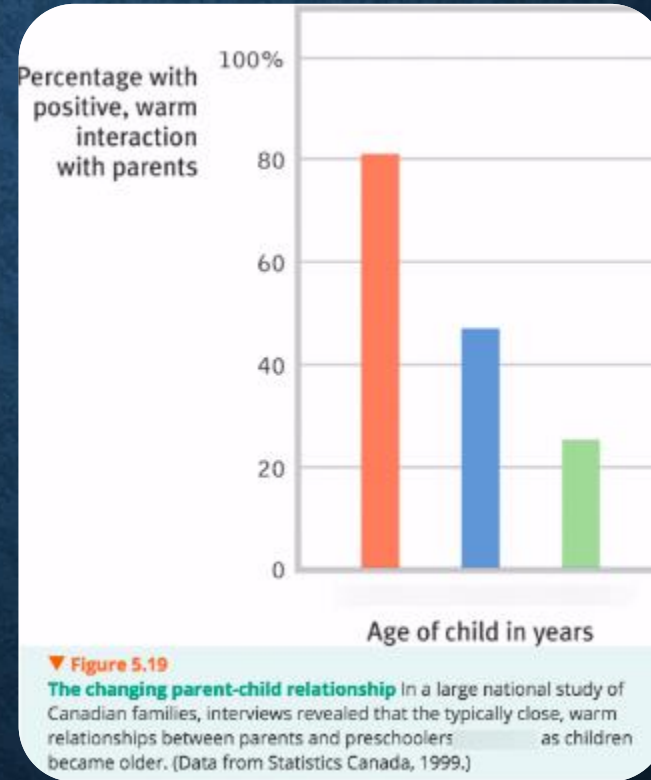
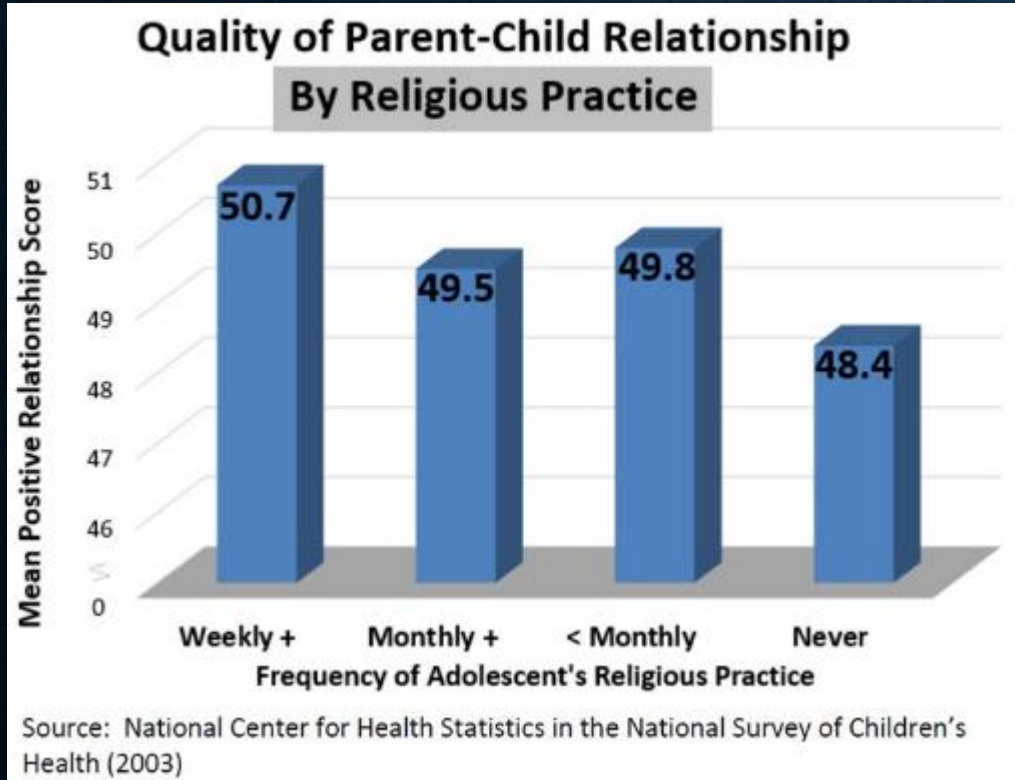


HOW DO WE SHOW OUR CHILDREN THAT WE LOVE THEM?!

- Love is instinctive
- Love is easy (???)
- Love is eternal (???)
- Love is mutual (???)



HOW DO WE SHOW OUR CHILDREN THAT WE LOVE THEM?!



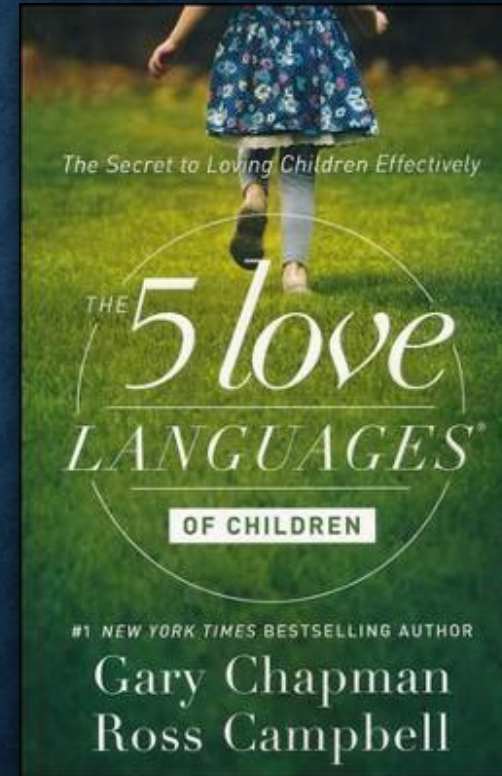
HOW DO WE SHOW OUR CHILDREN THAT WE LOVE THEM?!

- Physical Touch
- Words of Affirmation
- Quality Time
- Gifts
- Acts of Service

How to discover your child's love language

Love and Discipline

Loving your Teenage child



THE LOVE TANK!



- Filling your child's "love tank":
 - When they receive love in their primary love language, they feel loved. They are secure, energized and develop to their potential
 - The tank is depleted when we don't receive love; when unnoticed, attacked and with broken trust. It hurts the most with love language turned against
 - When the love tank is empty, issues arise and relationships fall apart
 - If the love tank is left empty, they will seek a "fill" elsewhere!!

1- PHYSICAL TOUCH

- Emotional power of touch since infancy (orphanage research)
- **Mark 10:13-16** Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought *them*. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw *it*, He was greatly displeased and said to them, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.” ¹⁶ And He took them up in His arms, laid *His* hands on them, and blessed them.
- The form of touch changes as they grow up
- But do not withdraw from showing affection through physical touch
- A hug, a kiss, reading on your lap, as backrub, a wrestle, a race, basketball rumble!



2- WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

- **Proverbs 18:21** Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.
- Affirmation = acceptance of the person not the behavior or actions
- Affirmation is unconditional: *not if or because*
- *The TONE > Words*
- Affirmation comes in many “dialects”



2- WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

- **Words of Affection:**
 - Focus on who the child is not what the child does (personality, physical appearance)
- **Words of Praise:**
 - Focus on the EFFORT not the RESULT
 - Beware the urge of “perfection”
 - The appropriate timing of motivation
- **Words of Encouragement:**
 - Commend and enthusiasm for more
 - St Paul and Timothy (2 Timothy 1:6-8)



2- WORDS OF AFFIRMATION



3- QUALITY TIME

- There is nothing more precious or irreplaceable than time you spend with your kids
- Undivided attention
- Eye Contact
- Give time that counts – not the crumbs (exhausted, distracted, frustrated)



3- QUALITY TIME

- Go where they are!
 - Infants and little kids – to the floor
 - Older children – to the playground
 - Teenagers – to the park or the gym
- Go into details!
 - Peeling the onion – show interest
- Storytelling is magical!
 - They want to know you!
 - History is fascinating (especially family history!)



4- GIFTS

- In every culture gifts are an expression of love and care
- **Presents are never a substitute for Presence!**
- Abouna Mikhail and the pockets full of candy!!
- After every trip away from home: *what did baba get me?!!*
- It is the thought that counts not the price (a flower, a stone)
- Give them what they need not what they crave – teach them gratitude and modesty



4- GIFTS

- Everything you give-give as a gift (wrap it in love and attention): school supplies, a snack, an ironed shirt
- Gifts are NOT Rewards or PAYMENTS : they are unmerited, delivered based on GRACE
- The Fellowship and Gift of the Holy Spirit



5- ACTS OF SERVICE

- We do it from the day they are born!
 - We feed them, clean them, clothe them
- Service NOT Labor (not with grudge or anger)
- Do not do for them what they **CAN** do for themselves! (make the bed, laundry, clean plate...) – **Age Appropriate Service**
- Teach them : That is a Service!



5- ACTS OF SERVICE

- Without Obligation or Complaint:
- A Fixed bicycle but a Broken heart
- Give your child a model of service to imitate: then give them gradual opportunity to serve others



HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR CHILD'S LOVE LANGUAGE!

- Observe how the child expresses love to you and others
- Notice what they ask for the most
- Give them options to choose from
- Experiment! Pour it on and look for impact on behavior and attitude
- Recognize the impact of gender, age and stage
 - Test time
 - Summer time
 - Child versus teenager



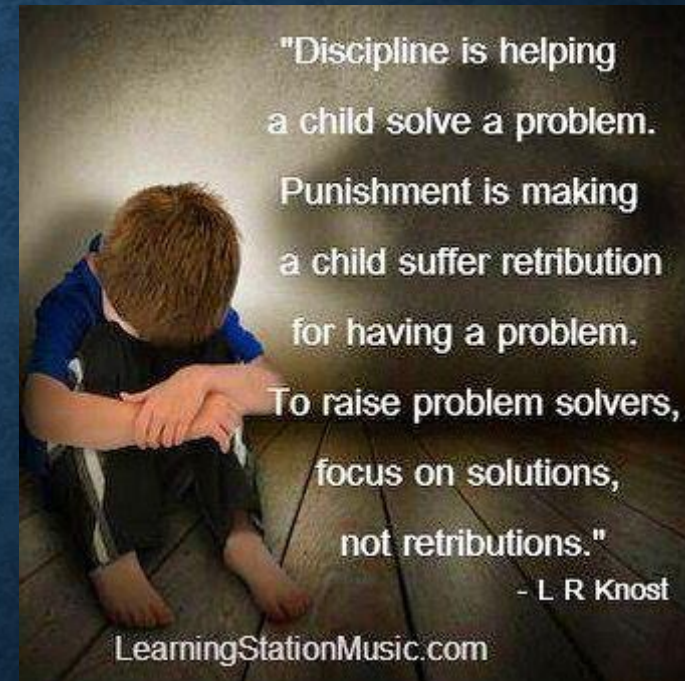
LOVE AND DISCIPLINE

- Discipline = to Train (Teach + Model)
- When a child misbehaves we have choices: Permit – Punish – Discipline
- Rebellion is often an attempt to get attention: it is a pursuit of love!!!
- Always wrap Discipline in Love (The Pauline Sandwich!)



LOVE AND DISCIPLINE

- Beware discipline by withholding the primary love language (that is harsh!) – isolation to a quality time child - spanking to a physical touch child
- The purpose of discipline is correction not punishment or REVENGE!
- The Discipline must fit the crime 😊
- Discipline must be positive (not only negative) reinforcement



LOVE AND DISCIPLINE

- Discipline without Anger or Aggression (**Ephesians 6:4** fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.)
- Discipline to correct (**Hebrews 12:5-6** My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”
- Prepare your child: Rules and Consequences
- Always wrapped in love (**Job 5:18** For He bruises, but He binds up; He wounds, but His hands make whole.



The most effective discipline strategies are those that

PROACTIVELY PREPARE

a child so the parent doesn't have to

REACTIVELY RESPOND

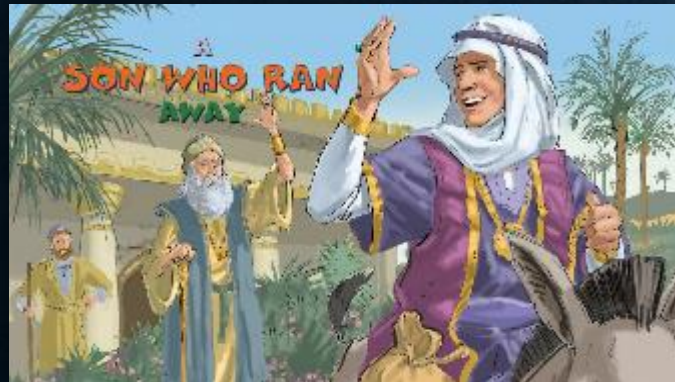
LOVE AND DISCIPLINE

- Even God Himself gets rebellious kids!!
(Isaiah 1:2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear,
O earth!

For the LORD has spoken:

“I have nourished and brought up
children,

And they have rebelled against Me;



- Discipline may require TOUGH LOVE
(Romans 2:4-5) Or do you despise the
riches of His goodness, forbearance,
and longsuffering, not knowing that the
goodness of God leads you to
repentance? ⁵ But in accordance with your
hardness and your ^[a]impenitent heart you
are ^[b]treasuring up for yourself wrath in
the day of wrath and revelation of the
righteous judgment of God, ⁶ who “will
render to each one according to his deeds

LOVE AND DISCIPLINE

- When (if ever) is physical discipline appropriate?!
- **Proverbs 23:13-14** Do not withhold correction from a child,
For *if* you beat him with a rod, he will not die.
¹⁴ You shall beat him with a rod,
And deliver his soul from hell.



WARNING

- Jesus at the Temple (Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, John 2) – **ONCE!!!!**
- Physical discipline has to be rare if ever (**better yet: NEVER**)
- Beware your anger and wrath take over
- The child must hear your love while feeling the discipline
- The mildest physical discipline can leave emotional scars and cause trauma
- Cultural and Age boundaries



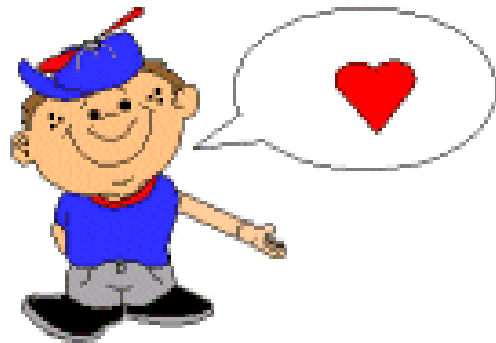
LOVING YOUR TEENAGE CHILD

- **The “Teenage Culture”**: music – language – dress – “attitude”
- **A Difficult Development Stage**
 - Seeking identity (who am I)
 - Developing Logic (WHY?)
 - Seeking Independence (differentiation)
 - Emotional instability (mood swings)
- **Build Bridges not Walls:**
 - Communication not Confrontation
 - Acceptance even if not Approval
 - Nurture not Nag
 - Express respect
 - Admit faults and short-comings
 - Apologize when needed

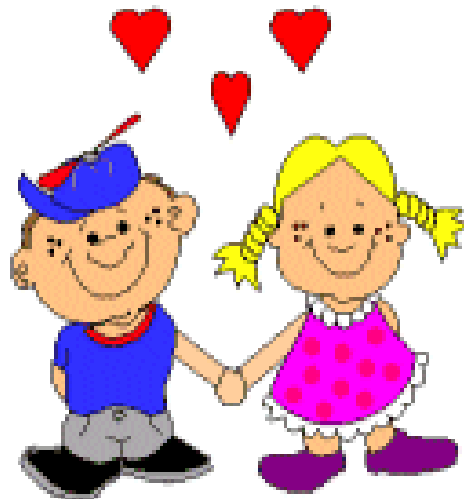
SIX THINGS YOUR TEEN NEEDS YOU TO SAY:

1. I hear what you're saying.
2. I understand how you feel.
3. I see so many gifts in you.
4. I believe in you.
5. I love you no matter what.
6. I'm always here for you.

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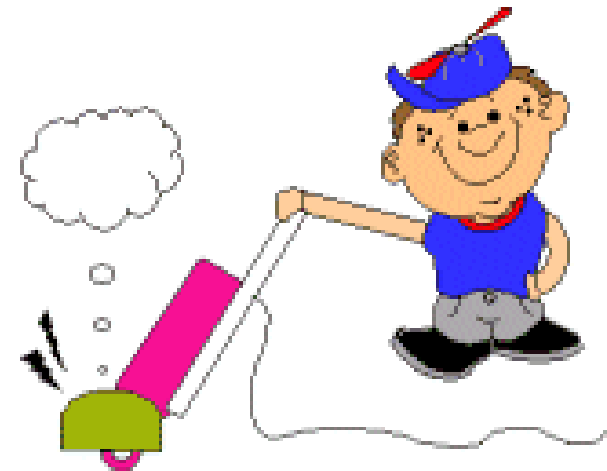


You tell me you
love me with words

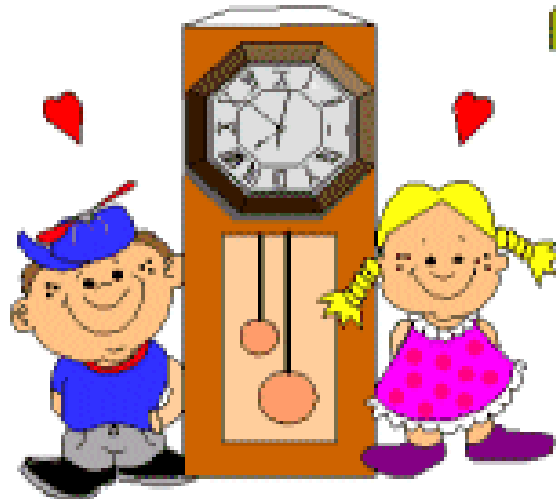


You want to hold my
hand and hug me

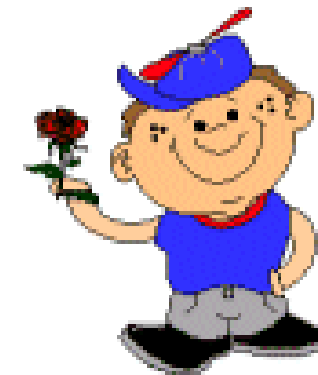
I KNOW
YOU
LOVE ME
WHEN



You do thoughtful
things for me



You want to spend
time with me



You like to give me
tokens and presents

YOU SPEAK MY LOVE LANGUAGE