

Biblical Encouragement for Moms

June 2, 2013

“ Accountability ”

As I watched our children when they were toddlers, I could often see their human nature, the selfish, sinful nature. They would often do what was easiest, not what was best or right. For a child that may be putting a toy in the wrong place because it is faster when cleaning up.

Children need parents to teach them good character and *then they need accountability* so that they will follow through on good decisions. That is from toddler all the way through the teens. The Bible clearly tells us the consequences of allowing a child to make his own decisions. Giving a child instruction and accountability may even save his life.

Follow up on your children as you give them instruction. Are they doing a job well? Tell them. Are they needing some correction on attitudes? Sit down, one-on-one and discuss how they could improve.

Children need accountability in how they communicate:

“There is that speaketh like the *piercings of a sword*: but the tongue of the wise is *health*.” Proverbs 12:18

The way *you* speak also really matters. That is; tone of voice, facial expressions, with prayer. Two people can make similar statements and one will cause anger, while the more sensitive, prayerful and compassionate person will get a better response (generally).

Parents *and* children need to work on this.

Teach your children to speak in love. There is a lot of difference between “the piercings of a sword” (ouch!) And “health.” Speak *health* into your home by your communication,

then help your children to do the same. Now let's look at another form of communication.

“Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are His delight.” Proverbs 12:22

As we have discussed before, lying will bring judgment on you and your home. Lying is an abomination to the Lord. But the second half of this verse says you can be a *delight to the Lord* if you are truthful. Teach your children this verse. What do you think “abomination” means? Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord. Lying lips “abhor” the Lord. Abomination means “the worst form of hatred.” See Proverbs 21:6

So, be **healthful** in your communication and **truthful** in your communication. Be accountable first to God, then to your family. Your children are accountable to you and your husband. Talk through the issues you have with communication.

Do you know that God tells us the root problem with fighting children? If this problem is solved, there is no fighting.

Look at Proverbs 13:10.

“Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.”

Contention just means

striving,
struggling between opponents
arguing

These are the results of pride. Proud people are contentious. The Bible says that **only by pride** comes striving and arguments. It also says in this verse “*with the well advised is wisdom.*” We need to learn to communicate in such a way that we are not always

debating. Proud parents are argumentative. The well advised parent will carve out time to explain corrections and will take whatever time they need to help children realize the importance of a specific assignment. We need to hold each other accountable with our speech. Pride is an ugly sin that we do not want to pass to our children. Bad attitudes in parents can destroy a family. Proverbs 16:24, Proverbs 16:32 and Proverbs 17:22 teach us the good that results from having a proper attitude. Pleasant words, being slow to anger and a merry heart are all discussed in these verses.

“There is gold and a multitude of rubies; but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.” Proverbs 20:15

Your words are how you will be remembered. Choose them well. The lips of knowledge are a precious jewel, God’s Word says. That is the kind of jewel I want to pass on to my children. What better inheritance? **Be accountable to God for your careful choice of words.**

This class can become an accountability class if you would like it to be.

An attitude that destroys is *envy*. Many become angry to the point of illness when they see someone else have something that they want. They will go into debt to get it. As we walk our children through certain situations, we can prevent all these attitudes. The Bible says something interesting about envy. **“A sound heart is the life of the flesh, but envy the rottenness of the bones.” Proverbs 14:30** Through their accountability to us, we can prevent so many issues down the road. Envy can be prevented as you learn contentment & your children see that in you. Stop and think about your accountability to God. We can also be accountable to our children by realizing our responsibility to them.

An example of this in my own life is prayer. My children have been used by the Lord to keep me praying for their souls, for their walk with God for their home school experience, for their friendships, for their future mates, etc. I do not want to let them down. I want our home to be a place where they see the hand of God daily.

Accountability is very important in life. We need each other. An encouraging word to your teen may keep them from exasperation...

and despair in the maturing process. An encouraging word to your children will make them more productive; it is fuel for the soul.

Ultimately though, we are accountable to God. Psalm 90:12 That really is enough. Ask God daily to teach you to realize that every day counts.

However, even Paul the Apostle traveled with people and partnered with others to accomplish more for God. Having accountability to someone is good.

There was Paul and Barnabas, Paul and Silas, Paul and Timothy, Paul and John Mark. Paul and Dr Luke. He knew that this accountability would help him accomplish more for Christ. It works the same for us.

The areas we have looked at are:

accountability w/ our words & attitudes

accountability to our children

accountability to each other for strengthening in Christ

Holding each other accountable out of love is seen throughout scripture:

James 5:16 confessing faults and praying for one another

Romans 12:15 rejoicing with one another

Proverbs 27:17 challenging and sharpening one another spiritually

I Thessalonians 5:11 comforting and edifying one another

In conclusion, remember our main accountability is to God.

Romans 14:12 “So then, every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”