

Did I Say the Right Thing?

Did I say the right thing? did I do the right thing? These are the questions most frequently asked by parents seeking counsel concerning the handling of some difficult matter with a child. From this point on, the conversation usually centers on a discussion of strategy and parenting technique: just where to be gentle, where to be firm, where to give a little and where to draw the line.

Now, I don't mean to minimize any of these important questions. They are the same ones asked by every conscientious parent since Adam raised Cain (or something like that). That's why bookstores have whole sections devoted to the skills of parenting and respected authorities present their seminars from coast to coast. Christian parents realize that the family they head is God's chosen medium for the transmission of godly lifestyle and values to the new generation. Now, that's serious business.

The point I want to make is this. All this parenting skill is essential but secondary. For instance, we've all known someone who possessed vast reserves of experience and skill but lacked the determination to put it to work. They had all the skill necessary to build and maintain a strong relationship with a child, a wife or a friend but for one reason or another, demonstrated a lack of commitment to the process and the person. On the other hand, we all know and admire someone who, though they may have lacked some important communication skill or may even have had little or no experience, demonstrated such a level of commitment to a relationship that their efforts were rewarded with dramatic success.

Did I say the right thing? Did I do the right thing? These are important questions that every parent asks. May I suggest two more: Parents, are you thoroughly committed to raise your children to trust and honor God? Children, are you committed to honor your parents and follow their instruction in godliness? It seems to me that any relationship based upon such pure motives, allowing even for mistakes along the way, is destined to succeed.

God Bless,

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Administrator