

PARENTING TIPS

Persevering in Communication

Some parents lose their desire to communicate on a deeper level because their children reject their opinions, feelings, or initiative. That hurts. It may take a while for your children to see you're trying to connect in significant ways. You may have to discipline a child for insensitivity or meanness, but continue to explain to your kids what you're doing. Children often resist love when they need it the most.

To help you persevere in difficult relationships where you feel like you're not making progress, consider Colossians 3:22-24 "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

When you try to go deeper in a relationship, you may not experience many rewards at first. Keep going, knowing you're doing the right thing and pleasing the Lord. Look to him for approval instead of to the relationship for rewards. That provides inner strength to continue on even after you feel like quitting.

Communication in any relationship takes work. It's nice when someone will listen to you and allow you to pour out your thoughts, hopes, and feelings. Listening is a servant task requiring concentrated effort and creativity to get around the barriers and mine fields that can come up. Do the hard work in this area, though, and you'll see positive results.



This parenting tip is from the book, Parenting is Heart Work by Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN,
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