

THE DELIGHTFUL FAMILY

*Cultivating love and unity,
forging strong family bonds*



Reb & Beverly Bradley

Version 2007

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*Cultivating love, minimizing sibling
rivalry, and forging strong family bonds*

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Sheridan, California

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PO Box 266
Sheridan, California 95681

Order line (800) 545-1729
www.familyministries.com

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Printed in the United States

All Bible quotes:
New International Version unless otherwise stated

Session 1

Creating a Strong Family Identity

I. Signs of a weak family identity

- Everybody does their own thing -- going different directions
- Children are annoyed at having to be with family
- They prefer friends or outside activities -- anywhere but home
- They are embarrassed to be seen in public with parents
- They dread being seen caring for younger siblings
- They can't wait to move out some day
- They demonstrate contempt for parental authority
- Teens become increasingly alienated as they grow older
- Constant sibling rivalry -- cutting down one another (love protects)

II. Characteristics of a strong family identity

Eph 5:8,1; Phil 2:15; 1 Pet 1:14; 1 John 3:10

III. A family strong-in-identity is NOT one which is...

A. Strong in

B. Independent from all

C. A -oriented family

D. The result of following a for

⇒ Our children are – not in a cake

IV. THE PREMISE: Our children are looking for

A. They desire _____ and

*1 Sam 8:19 But the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us. 20 **Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.**"*

B. God first intends that they find security in their _____ with

⇒ We must do all we can to _____ a _____ in them

C. God intends that they find it in their _____ to their

⇒ If they do not get it from _____ they will seek it _____ the

V. How do children gain security from their family?

They enjoy their parents'

VI. How can parents communicate love and acceptance to their children?

A. _____ them for who they are

1. Do you communicate to them that you are never completely _____, _____, or _____ with them or their efforts?

2. If our kids fail to find our acceptance, they will welcome it from the _____ or _____ who offers it.

3. Jesus _____ in his experience with the woman at the well (John 4:4-42)

⇒ He did not agree with her moral choices, but _____ no

⇒ He did not return her

⇒ He was _____ with her

4. Are you a _____ person for your children?

⇒ Listen to their feelings without immediately giving them the _____ you think they need.

⇒ Values come out of the _____ and _____ who a person
Luke 6:45 ... out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

⇒ If their values are immature, then devise a plan to _____ the _____ that those values.

5. Consider: Is it possible you have difficulty accepting your children as they are, because you do not believe _____ you as you

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us...10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

B. Express _____ to them in _____ ways

1. _____ Be _____ toward them.

1 Th 2:7 but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.

Isa 66:13a As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you ...

2. _____ Discipline yourself to _____ at them.

Prov 16:15 When a king's face brightens, it means life; his favor is like a rain cloud in spring.

Mark 10:21a Jesus looked at him and loved him...

3. _____ Remove the _____ at the end of their name.

Eph 6:4a Fathers, do not exasperate your children...

1 Th 2:11 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, 12 encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

4. _____ Are they _____ or _____

1 Tim 3:4a He must manage his own family well ...

Session 2

The Delightful Family

I. PICTURE OF A DELIGHTFUL FAMILY

II. PICTURE OF FAMILY LACKING DELIGHT

III. WHAT ROBBS A HOME OF DELIGHT?

A. Children lacking – those who are

*Prov 10:1 ... A wise son brings joy to his father, but **a foolish son grief** to his mother*

*Prov 17:21 To have **a fool** for a son **brings grief**; there is **no joy** for the father of a fool.*

*Prov 15:20 A wise son brings joy to his father, **but a foolish man despises** his mother.*

Prov 23:24 The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him.

Folly 'ivveleth -- *perversity which spawns deviousness, defiance, and rebellion.*

Prov 1:7; 7:22; 10:8; 10:10, 14; 11:29; 12:15-16; 14:3, 9; 15:5; 16:22; 17:28; 20:3; 24:7; 27:3, 22; 29:9

Foolish keciyl -- to be fat, ie: to be full of self

Prov 1:22, 32; 3:35; 8:5; 10:1, 18, 23; 12:23; 13:16, 19; 14:7-8, 16, 24, 33; 15:2,7,14,20; 17:10, 12, 16, 21, 24; 18:2, 6-7; 19:1, 10, 13, 29; 21:20; 23:9; 26:1, 3-12; 29:11, 20

B. Children remain if they don't receive our expressed through

Prov 3:12 ... the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

*Prov 29:17 Discipline your son, and he will **give you peace**; he will **bring delight** to your soul.*

Prov 29:15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

Prov 22:15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him

Pr 13:24 He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

Prov 23:13 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you smite him with the rod, he will not die. 14 Smite him with the rod and save his soul

Prov 19:18 Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying. (KJV) Heb 12:6-8; Rev 3:19

SIGNS OF UNRESTRAINED "FOOLISHNESS":

IV. WHAT DO WE DO TO RAISE CHILDREN FULL OF "FOOLISHNESS"?

A. We _____ from them.

⇒ We do not require that they _____ every time we

*John 14:31 but the world must learn that I love the Father and **that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me** ...*

⇒ We teach them to disobey by

Num 3:10; 3:38; Num 4:15; 1 Chr 13:9-10 Uzzah did not have a second chance

⇒ They must learn that their _____ bring

Gal 6:7 ... A man reaps what he sows.

B. We strive for their _____ – We seek their _____ – Try be their

Prov 29:25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

Mat 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

C. We live for their

⇒ Children are most happy and secure when _____ are in

Ps 119:165 Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.

D. We rescue them from

1. We hold the view that childhood is a _____ before adulthood

2. Childhood is not a time for freedom from _____ it is a time of
_____ for adulthood.

3. Helping them is postponing maturity

*Heb 2:10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation **mature** [teleioo] **through suffering**. (teleioo: complete, whole, perfect, mature)*

Heb 5:8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once made mature [teleioo], he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

*Acts 14:22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go **through many hardships** to enter the kingdom of God," they said.*

4. Acquaint them with those who

E. We them

F. We allow them to share in

G. We them into but fail to their into submission.

Prov 23:26 My son, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways

⇒ Intimidation may foster

V. ASIDE FROM SUBDUING THE SELF-WILL, WHAT WILL CREATE A DELIGHTFUL FAMILY?

A delightful family is one in which the children have been raised to and as they themselves

TEACHING CHILDREN TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Healing Sibling Rivalry – Beverly Bradley

CAUSES OF SIBLING RIVALRY

JEALOUSY OF SUCCESS

Gen 30:1 When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister. So she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I'll die!"

JEALOUSY OF AFFECTION

Gen 37:4 When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

BRAGGING

Gen 37:5 Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.

YOUNGER BEING GRANTED AUTHORITY OVER THE OLDER

Gen 37:8 His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said . . . 11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

UNFORGIVENESS OF OFFENSE

2 Sam 13:22 Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad; he hated Amnon because he had disgraced his sister Tamar.

ONE'S LIGHT EXPOSES THE OTHER'S SIN

1 Sam 17:28 When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle."

JEALOUS OF THE OTHER'S SPIRITUALITY

Gen 4:2 Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. 3 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. 4 But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, 5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. 6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." 8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

IRRITABLE, UNSUBDUED SELF WILL

(A wise son = one self-controlled, subdued will / A foolish son = one ruled by his passions)

Prov 29:15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

Prov 17:25 A foolish son brings grief to his father and bitterness to the one who bore him.

Prov 15:20 A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish man despises his mother.

Prov 18:6 A fool's lips bring him strife, and his mouth invites a beating.

Prov 20:3 It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

Prov 22:10 Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended.

James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. 17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness. 4:1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.

HOW CAN WE HELP OUR CHILDREN OVERCOME SIBLING RIVALRY?

To what extent is harmony a fruit of the Lord?

A person whose will is submitted to God is happy and secure, and rests inside secure boundaries.

Ps 94:12 Blessed is the man you discipline, O LORD, the man you teach from your law; 13 you grant him rest from days of trouble . . .

Our children's lives bear fruit of the seeds we plant. Tenderness and affection breeds tenderness.

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

Love and discipline must be balanced -- Rom 11:22 Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God . . .

Can I actually instruct my child in “loving” or is it an experience which must be prayed for?

➤ A choice -- *Mat 22:39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

➤ An action -- *1 John 3:17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?*

➤ Decision to sacrifice -- *John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*

Children overcome sinful habits the same way as adults. How does God tell adults to handle conflicts?
(Rom 12:10-21)

Our calling is not to “not fight” -- it is to *love*. The same for our children.

1. Assume a kind countenance

Col 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

2. Speak a kind word

1 Cor 4:13 when we are slandered, we answer kindly.

Rom 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Eph 4:31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. 5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

3. Perform kind acts

Luke 6:27 "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

Rom 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

4. Physically share things

Luke 6:35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

5. Pray for them

Luke 6:27 "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

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