
Give Them Wisdom.



The Parent Child Relationship: *Justice*

*“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;
lovingkindness and truth go before You.” Psalm 89:14*

If the foundation of God’s throne is justice and righteousness, we can confidently conclude that this should also be the foundation of our relationships. Righteousness is doing what is right. Justice is dealing with situations and people in a just manner based on what is right. Consider these thoughts concerning justice in your relationship with your children.

One: Justice is not fairness.

God is a God of justice, not fairness. The cultural concept of fairness is that everyone gets exactly the same thing, whether it is needed or appropriate for the situation. Justice treats each one according to what is right.

Two: Beware of false expectations.

Be sure you have a clear understanding of what has taken place and what you need to do. False expectations from yourself or others can cloud your judgment and keep you from being just with your children.

Three: Justice in discipline.

We can teach the character of God through our discipline because discipline carried out properly communicates love.

*“For the LORD corrects those He loves, just as a father corrects a child
in whom he delights.” Proverbs 3:12*

Discipline in the parent-to-child or child-to-parent relationship includes these three steps:

1. Admit the mistake.
2. Ask for forgiveness.
3. Make restitution.

Discipline between children needs to include you! You need to step in to be the referee.

“...a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.” Proverbs 29:15

Teach your children how to appeal to authority and ask for help. For example:

- “We need a referee.”
- “We are having a problem.”

Then, it is up to you to get to the bottom of the situation to help your children navigate the situation appropriately to bring about reconciliation.

For the times your children may disagree with or have a question about your instruction, teach them how to properly appeal to you. (Of course, this is once it is age appropriate for them to do so.) A proper appeal can be made by:

- First, acknowledging your authority with, “Yes, sir,” or, “Yes, ma’am.”
- Second, making the appeal with, “May I ask you a question?” or “May I tell you something?”

Bringing It Home

Explain to your children that life isn’t always fair with everyone always getting the same thing. Father God gives you what you need, not what your neighbor needs.

Teach them to admit their choices, to ask for forgiveness, and to make restitution when appropriate. It is very important that you also demonstrate this to them when you are wrong.

Take the time to get completely to the bottom of situations BEFORE making a judgment.

Keeping healthy relationships between siblings is largely up to you to act as referee and to calmly bring siblings to forgiveness and reconciliation. How was the last conflict between siblings resolved to complete reconciliation?