

The Primary Key to Successful Parenting The Primary Key to Successful Relationships

What's the Key?

Keeping your “Heart Connection” with your children through humility, understanding, acceptance and forgiveness.

Luke 15:11-24.

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' 20 So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Six Conditions to Keeping a “Heart Connection”

- 1. We must humble ourselves before God.**
- 2. We must understand the nature of the human condition—both ours and theirs.**
- 3. We must accept others in their imperfect condition as God accepts us.**
- 4. We must forgive their repeated failures and offenses and keep a zero balance in our “I’m Offended” Balance Sheet.**
- 5. We must do this for a lifetime.**
- 6. We must bless them repeatedly into their destiny and identity in Christ, even when they seem uninterested.**

- 1. We must humble ourselves before God.**

Isaiah 6:1-5

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

Jn. 17: 23

I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

2. We must understand the nature of the human condition—both ours and theirs.

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things
and beyond cure.
Who can understand it?

Mark 7:20-23

For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.

3. We must accept others in their imperfect condition as God accepts us.

Ps 103:13-14

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.

4. We must forgive their repeated failures and offenses repeatedly and keep zero balance in our “Offense Balance Sheet”.

Mt. 18:21, 22

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

5. We must do this for a lifetime.

Heb. 13:5

For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

- 6. We must repeatedly bless them into their destiny and identity in Christ, even when they seem uninterested and unbelieving.**

Luke 15:22

"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.