

## **TOP 10 PARENTING PRACTICES WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE!**

- 1.) FAMILY DEVOTIONS / WORSHIP** – Set aside time for the family to participate in Bible instruction, memory work, singing, and prayer.
- 2.) COUCH TIME** – Be sure that your children witness parental unity, care, and edifying conversation.
- 3.) BAPTISM** – Is the sign and seal that we all belong to Christ and a communion of believers. The reason we live in a particular way is not because, “Dad and Mom say so!” It is because we all live in “a kingdom” ruled by our Redeemer, Jesus Christ! Both parents and children are subjects of Christ.
- 4.) FIRST TIME OBEDIENCE** – Children are required to respond to commands. Parents must train their children to recognize the God given authority under which they live. Children are not allowed to “push boundaries” by stalling, making excuses, or responding with poor attitudes.
- 5.) “YES Daddy / Mommy; YES Sir / Ma’am”** – Children must immediately acknowledge that they have been commanded by verbally responding, “Yes, Mommy... Yes, Daddy... (etc.)” This behavior assists children in listening to, and concentrating on, what is being asked of them.
- 6.) TWO RESPONSE RULE** – When a child is commanded to comply with a request, the overarching rule (as exceptions apply) is to respond by saying, “**Yes...**” If the child has a legitimate reason for not complying with a command, they may offer a second response, “**May I appeal?**” Listening to an appeal allows the child to inform the parent of any conflicting details for which the child should be concerned. Parents have the right to determine if an “appeal” is appropriate. If not, first time obedience!
- 7.) PLEASE & THANK YOU** – These basic manners must be continually enforced. Parents and children must learn the sign language motions for these words (and a list of others) in order to begin teaching this concept to children as soon as possible.
- 8.) THE INTERRUPT RULE** – When two “parental figures” are in conversation, a child is not permitted to interrupt that conversation by intruding (exceptions apply.) The child must place their hand on the arm of the adult with whom they would like to speak and wait until they are acknowledged.
- 9.) TWO MINUTE RULE** – This rule is primarily for parents who are ready to take their children away from an activity. This rule simply warns a child that their activity will end in “2 minutes.” This prepares them to “let go” of the activity they are enjoying and avoids complications from suddenly changing a child’s “routine.”
- 10.) OBEDIENCE / DEFIANCE / CONSEQUENCE** – Every decision has a consequence! This is an important lifetime lesson to learn. Warnings without repercussions communicates that consequences are not real. Promising without delivering communicates that authorities can not be trusted. Certain behaviors require an immediate response (e.g. a child falling to the ground with a temper tantrum.) Other behaviors must be dealt with discreetly, out of view of the public or siblings. Bribery for compliance is another tactic which is also unacceptable for raising children. However, rewarding children for accomplishing a skill or task is a way of teaching that hard work has blessings associated with it. This particular practice must be learned and employed for the express purpose of teaching the importance of life long consequences.
- 10.) THE LORD DISCIPLINES THOSE WHOM HE LOVES** – Our children should never doubt that our interaction with them is motivated by our love for them and our God. Discipline is discipleship! Whenever discipline has been exercised (even for a “time out”) a time of counsel and debriefing must take place afterward, face to face, so that the child understands the reason for discipline. These discussions should conclude the expression of affection, hugs, and prayers.