

Three Necessities Your Children Shouldn't Live Without

Ephesians 6:3-4

Murphy's Law of Parenting

1. The chances of a piece of bread falling with the jelly side down are in directly proportional to the cost of the carpet.
2. The garbage truck will be two doors past your house when your teen remembers it is his turn to take out the trash.
3. The shirt that your child needs to wear today will be the only one that needs washed or mended.
4. The item your child lost, and MUST have for school within the next ten seconds will be found in the last place you think to look.
5. Sick children recover miraculously when the doctor enters the treatment room.
6. Your chances of seeing someone you know dramatically increases if you drive your child to school without fixing your hair.

Illustration: A Pastor tells a story of the time his five year old answers the phone before he could get to it. The mother was at a porcelain doll making class. The father was on the front porch talking to a friend. The five year old answers the phone. The caller asked for his mother and the five year old said, "She's out making babies, but my dad is here if you want to talk with him." Naturally the call was from one of the elders wives.

- John Wilmot, the Earl of Rochester said, "Before I was married I three theories about raising children. Now I have three children and have

no theories.” Were all experts on parenting until we become a parent. Then we realize it’s not as easy as we thought.

- Let me make this statement before I begin: I do not claim to be a perfect parent.

- **Three necessities your children shouldn’t live without.**

1. Your Love. 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. Here is a paraphrase of that same scripture. “If I offer the best parenting advice, and have not love, I am only a two year old banging a dish pan. If I read every book on parenting and if I attend every parenting conference, but have not love I am nothing. If I spend all my salary to provide the best for my children, but have not love I am nothing.”

- John Lennon wrote a song called “Love.” In it he said: Love is real, real is love. Love is feeling, feeling is love. Love is wanting to be love. But listen to what his son said about his father. “I felt he was a hypocrite. Dad could talk about peace and love out loud to the world, but he could never show it to the people who supposedly meant the world to him.”
- 99% of parents will say that they love their children, but love is more than a feeling; love is an action. “For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son.” God showed us that He loved us by His actions!!
 - Are our children seeing love in action in our homes?
- Dan Benson, in his book *The Total Man*, surveyed a number of families and found that every positive statement made in the home there were 10

negative ones. We have an amazing capacity to be overly critical to our kids.

2. You're TIME!!!! Ephesians 5:15-16 "Be very careful then, how you live, not unwise but as wise, making the most out of every opportunity, because the days are evil."

- Today, more than any other time, parents need to spend time with their children. Why are our kids in trouble today? Because they spend countless hours with their heads in computer games and TV. Hanging around kids with poor character. Parents, your kids need you. NO Time with your kids is wasted time!!!
- We only have a limited time to spend with our kids, are we making the most out of it??

3. You're Discipline. Pediatricians are finding today's parents are too permissive. They are reluctant to set limits on their children. More and more parents care more about being liked by their kids than correcting their kids.

- Revetta Bowers heads the Center for Early Education in Los Angeles says, schools are replacing parents. Schools now make the rules, which in many instances are the only rules that are open to arbitration or negotiation.
- Illustration: A Kindergarten in one town sat right on a corner by a busy highway. The speeding cars would frighten them and they would be too afraid to play on the playground. One day workers put up a fence around

the playground and the kids were not afraid any more. The fence did not limit their freedom; it actually expanded it. Children need fences and clear boundaries

- Hebrews 1:11 says, “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”
- Discipline must be exercised in such a way as to lead children to respect their parents. It must not be done in anger or frustration, inconsistent, unreasonable, excessive ,etc.....
- You can give you kids all sorts of nice things but what they really need is your Love, Time and Discipline.