

PARENTING SKILLS 3

This session will be about making parenting goals:
How to give Freedom and Choices.

~ materials gathered from personal experience, Gary & Marie Ezzo "Growing Kids God's Way", Danny Silk "Loving Your Kids on Purpose", John Rosemond articles, & Focus on the Family

Goal: Freedom & Choices

Freedom is important to God

Love & Freedom

- You can't have love if you don't have _____ .
- You can't have freedom if you don't have a _____ .
- Love without a _____ is rape. (God's not into that!)

The role of the _____ is to teach us to manage ourselves in all the freedom that God has afforded us.

How do I create a free place for my children where they can have a choice?

Morals, ethics, intrinsic desires need to be _____ in order to allow freedoms and choices

_____ freedom can lead to a child being wise in their own eyes.

Proverbs 26:12 "Do you see a man wise in his own eye? There is more hope for a fool than that man."

3 problem areas that make a child wise in his own eyes

1. Premature freedom in _____ making
2. Premature _____ freedoms
3. Premature _____ freedom

1. Premature freedom in *decision* making

The problem is not giving choices

BUT, giving _____ choices before the establishment of the moral conscience

This is necessary to monitor and regulate the decision-making process

Young children cannot handle the _____ that is associated with decision making.

Test:

If your child can handle not having a _____, that is when your child is ready for choices

2. Premature *physical* freedoms

Children going where they want to _____ permission

Is your child _____ your permission to do things, or just _____ you what he is going to do?

A child wise in their own eye will assume he has the freedom to do _____ he wants, _____ he wants, regardless of ownership or ability.

3. Premature *verbal* freedom

_____ freedoms are more than a child claiming his right to come and go at will.

It's also a problem of _____ .

Classic signs of too many verbal freedoms:

Bossy

Rude

_____ word

Demanding

Tells you _____

- **Prov 29:17-19**

_____ brings peace & delight

Instruction not understood = run _____

Children aren't servants that 'obey or else', they are love related and will respond to how they are treated

Avoid giving freedoms simply because a child is a certain age.

It is the combination of age and _____ that earns a child freedom.

Children need to be characterized by _____ what they say they will do and by _____ trustworthy.

New experiences and age virtues take on _____ meaning and parents need to take the time to work this through as their child grows.

A child with age appropriate self-control is a content child.

He is more relaxed and secure.

As a result, he grows in _____ and becomes less fearful of failure.

Too many freedoms too early _____ confidence because the child cannot manage his world, and trouble tends to be around every corner.

Bible References

Proverbs 26:4-5 "Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you yourself will be just like him. Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes"

Proverbs 26:12 "Do you see a person wise in their own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for them."

Ecclesiastes 8:11 "When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, people's hearts are filled with schemes to do wrong."

At Home

1. Evaluate the number of freedoms already granted your child.
2. Write them down and think about which of the three categories they fall into.
3. Is your child characterized by doing what they say and being trustworthy?
4. What happens when you decided to remove some choices in your child's life?
5. Look for areas your teen desires freedom. Explain expectations and guidelines and let them test the waters. Monitor the experience.