



# NewsLetter

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## The secrets to successful parenting

Haven't you heard an exasperated statement like this often enough: "I had cried out to the Lord to give me a child. I believe Little Ruben was the answer to my prayers. He was so precious in my life but now he is only 13 years old, and he is testing me at every turn and making my life miserable and feeling like I am in hell."

God has entrusted some with the role of leadership over children and has named them parents. God ordained parents to be leaders in the home. There are more single-parented headed households today than any other time in recent history. Most of those families are headed by a single mom. In fact, 64% of millennial moms have a child outside of marriage, according to Johns Hopkins researchers.

There are 1.2 million divorces in the United States each year.

Here are three important ingredients: Love, discipline, and guidance.

**Love:** our children need physical contact, kisses, words of encouragement, affirmation, and time.

Especially in adolescence, our children may feel like they are our enemies, but they are just learning to think and act for themselves. A certain amount of rebellion is quite normal, especially when they would like to have an explanation.

As parents, we must learn to love our children even when they don't deserve it. This does not mean tolerating their bad behavior.

**Discipline:** Discipline always aims at a better future for the child, while punishment seeks to inflict punishment.

The balance in discipline is key. As a parent, you must discipline and train your children, but you should not discipline them as if you were running a boot camp.

**Guidance:** As parents, it is our duty to teach and instruct our children in all aspects of life. Especially in the matters of God.

Here are the eight secrets to success with your children:

1. Establish and develop a plan with and for your children. It could vary depending on the age and rules you want to enforce.
  2. Review and adjust the plan. In the correction or discipline plan, you should reward good actions and specify consequences for violating the principles. We must make every effort to correct our children from a young age. Because they could be the joy or shame of their parents.
  3. Be consistent or coherent. When you say you are going to discipline a child for violating a rule, you must do so. Children should not believe that they can lead parents to disregard or reject established principles.
  4. Always keep the line of communication open. Let your children be your best friends to discuss everything.
  5. Pray with and for your children. Always ask God to help you train your children to be responsible adults.
  6. Spend time with them. Depending on your daily commitment, at least once a day, sit down to a meal together. While you are at the table, engage them in conversation.
  7. Practice the ministry of forgiveness with them. Christian parents must practice the good art of seeking and offering forgiveness.
- I have no doubt that if, as parents and future parents, you apply this advice in educating your children, there would be joy, peace, and happiness in your homes and in your church.