

“You’ll Never Amount to Anything!”

When “telling it like it is” destroys
the faith of children

What Do The Scriptures Say?

- Eph. 6:4 - “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”
- Col. 3:21 - “Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”
- Matt. 18:6 - “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”

What Do The Scriptures Say?

- Psalms 127:3-5 - “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. 5 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.”
- Luke 17:2 - “It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.”
- Mark 9:42 - “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.”

What Will Destroy The Faith And Hearts Of Children?

- Harsh punishment; judgmental words; unnecessarily strict demands; correcting children while enraged - Eph. 6:4
- Treating children dismissively or with disrespect - Eph. 4:29
- Comparing children or showing favoritism; the Patriarchs hurt their families by playing favorites
- Faultfinding and unrealistic expectations - Col. 3:21
- Double standards - Rom. 2:21

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- “But the hearts of small children are delicate organs. A cruel beginning in this world can twist them into curious shapes. The heart of a hurt child can shrink so that forever afterward it is hard and pitted as the seed of a peach. Or again, the heart of such a child may fester and swell until it is a misery to carry within the body, easily chafed and hurt by the most ordinary things.” (Carson McCullers)
- “We spend the first twelve months of our children's lives teaching them to walk and talk and the next twelve telling them to sit down and shut up.” (Phyllis Diller)

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- Children desperately need to know, and to hear in ways they understand and remember, that they're loved and valued. A child born today in the United Kingdom stands a ten times greater chance of being admitted to a mental hospital than to a university.
- What to tell a child when they are hurting from something a thoughtless or unkind person has said: Try not to allow it to trouble you; some people like to throw rocks at shiny things.
- “If we throw wet blankets over our children's dreams, we darken their world and extinguish their desire to live. Always allow your kids to keep humming with dreams and ideas that fuel their passions. Never tell them something is impossible.” (Suzy Kassem, Rise Up)

What Do The Scriptures Say?

- Deut. 6:7 - “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”
- Prov. 23:24 - “The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise child will delight in him.”

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- In their study, “Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency,” Harvard University sociologists Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck identified four crucial factors in raising healthy children:
 - The father's firm, fair, and consistent discipline.
 - The mother's supervision and companionship during the day.
 - The parents demonstrated affection for each other and for the children.
 - The family's cohesiveness; time spent together in activities where all participate.
- The Bible already said the same things.

Words Can Build Or Destroy: A Life, A Home, A Church

- James 3:2-12
- Our words have tremendous influence and power for good or evil
- Prov. 25:11 - “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.”
- Acts 13:50 - “But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.”

Words Can Build Or Destroy: A Life, A Home, A Church

- “Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this Island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be free and the life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands. Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, ‘This was their finest hour.’” (Winston Churchill)
- Meanwhile, 571 miles away in Berlin, Adolph Hitler was making speeches that resulted in the deaths of 70 million people, military and civilian.

Words Can Build Or Destroy: A Life, A Home, A Church

- Consider the impact of our words on children
- A. B. Simpson wrote: “I’d rather play with lightning than speak a reckless word against a servant of Christ.”
 - Matt. 12:36-37 - “But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Words Can Build Or Destroy: A Life, A Home, A Church

- Matt. 15:18-20 - "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. 20 These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

Words Can Build Or Destroy: A Life, A Home, A Church

- James 3:9-12 - "With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh."

Words Can Build Or Destroy: A Life, A Home, A Church

- “For children to take morality seriously they must be in the presence of adults who take morality seriously. And with their own eyes they must see adults take morality seriously. What we desire our children to become, we must endeavor to be before them. Children need models, not critics”
(William Bennett)