

Rock Solid Family Relationships: Strengthening the Parent-Child Relationship

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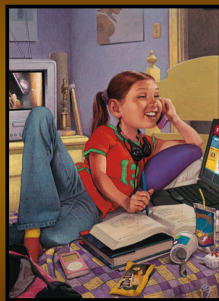
Family Personalities?

- Are they any different?



Personality Types in Your Family?

- Peacemaker
- Pot-stirrer
- Leader
- Follower
- Creative
- Intellectual
- Highly Sensitive
- Self Absorbed
- Defiant
- Talkers
- Doers
- Thinkers
- Planners



A Father/Son Contrast



Taylor Hartman's Color Code:

- The Color Code introduces the following four personality "Colors," or driving Core Motives:

- 1. RED** (Motive: POWER)—These are the power wielders. Power, the ability to move from point A to point B, and get things done is what motivates and drives these people. They bring great gifts of vision and leadership and generally are responsible, decisive, proactive and assertive.
- 2. BLUE** (Motive: INTIMACY)—These are the do-gooders. Intimacy, connecting, creating quality relationships and having purpose is what motivates and drives these people. They bring great gifts of quality and service and are generally loyal, sincere, and thoughtful.

Taylor Hartman's Color Code

- 3. WHITE** (Motive: PEACE)—These are the peacekeepers. Peace, or the absence of conflict, is what motivates and drives these people. They bring great gifts of clarity and tolerance and are generally kind, adaptable, good-listeners.
- 4. YELLOW** (Motive: Fun)—These are the fun lovers. Fun, or the joy of doing something just for the sake of doing it, is what motivates and drives these people. They bring great gifts of enthusiasm and optimism and are generally charismatic, spontaneous, and sociable.

Relationship Strength: Idea #1 Relationship is Based on the Rock, Jesus Christ

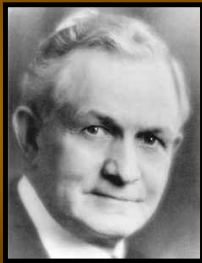
In order to have a strong connection with our children, the relationship needs to be built on Christ. He is the anchor of all successful relationships.



We Are Raising Children of God

"Never forget that these little ones are the sons and daughters of God and that yours is a custodial relationship to them, that He was a parent before you were parents and that He has not relinquished His parental rights or interest in these His little ones. Now, love them, take care of them. Fathers, control your tempers, now and in all the years to come. Mothers, control your voices; keep them down. Rear your children in love, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Take care of your little ones. Welcome them into your homes, and nurture and love them with all of your hearts. They may do, in the years that come, some things you would not want them to do, but be patient, be patient. You have not failed as long as you have tried. Never forget that" (President Gordon B. Hinckley, Salt Lake University Third Stake conference, 3 Nov. 1996; "Excerpts from Recent Addresses of President Gordon B. Hinckley," *Ensign*, July 1997, 72).

Christ Centered Home



"A true Mormon home is one in which if Christ should chance to enter, he would be pleased to linger and to rest" (President David O. McKay, *Gospel Ideals, The Improvement Era* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1976], 169)

Lessons from Paul

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4)

"Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged" (Colossians 3:21).

Christ-like Parenting

"Before we can effectively teach our children *what* Christ would teach, we have to teach them *how* Christ would teach. His ministry was characterized by gentleness, love, patience, persuasion, charity, and long suffering (see Moroni 7:43-47). Furthermore, he was not easily provoked. We must literally be as Christ (see 3 Nephi 27:27). When we teach that way, we are safe to be with. We are attractive to our children. Our words are believed, our actions are emulated, and our values tend to become their values. They begin to identify with us" (Glenn I. Latham, *What's A Parent To Do* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1997], 27).

Christ-like Nature is Familiar to Them

- Before we were their parents, they were raised by Heavenly Parents in the pre-earth life
- A Christlike nature resonates with them because it is familiar to them
- A Christlike nature helps remind children of what they already know
- They seek it and crave it
- It was how it used to be
- Parents must be Christlike leaders



Cake Anyone?

- Consider not only “what” we teach, but “how” we teach it!
- Many parents have the right message; unfortunately, their delivery is the problem



Parents Kind and Dear

“If you wish your children to be taught in the principles of the gospel, if you wish them to love the truth and understand it, if you wish them to be obedient to and united with you, love them! And prove to them that you do love them by your every word or act to them... When you speak or talk to them, do it not in anger, do it not harshly, in a condemning spirit. Speak to them kindly; get them down and weep with them if necessary and get them to shed tears with you if possible. Soften their hearts; get them to feel tenderly toward you. Use no lash and no violence,... approach them with reason,

Parents Kind and Dear

...with persuasion and love unfeigned. With these means, if you cannot gain your boys and your girls... there will be no means left in the world by which you can win them to yourselves. But, get them to love the gospel as you love it, to love one another as you love them; to love their parents as the parents love children. You can't do it any other way. You can't do it by unkindness; you cannot do it by driving; our children are like we are; we couldn't be driven; we can't be driven now.... You can't force your boys, nor your girls into heaven. You may force them to hell, by using harsh means in the efforts to make them good, when you yourselves are not as good as you should be... You can only correct your children by love, in kindness, by love unfeigned, by persuasion, and reason” (President Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1939], 316-317).

The Divine Nature of Parenting

- D&C 4
- D&C 121:36-46
- Romans 5:5
- Ephesians 3:17
- 1 Nephi 11:22



“And he did exhort them then with all the feelings of a tender parent....” (1 Nephi 8:37).

Relationship Strength: Idea #2 Treat Your Children as Individuals

“Child rearing is so individualistic. Every child is different and unique. What works with one may not work with another. . . . It is a matter of prayerful discernment for the parents” (James E. Faust, “The Greatest Challenge in the World—Good Parenting,” *Ensign*, November 1990, 32).



Treating Children As Individuals

“I want that kind of open, casual atmosphere because it helps me to get to know the players. Getting to know them as individuals is essential to knowing how to best to treat them as individuals. No two are going to have the same needs. It just isn't going to work if you treat them all the same. If your going to treat people fairly and equally, you have to treat them differently.

“Even with your own children you realize that. You need to treat them differently in their own areas. You can't motivate them in exactly the same way; you can't discipline them exactly the same way. Children need to be raised as individuals, not as a group. It's the same for football players. They need to be treated—and coached—as individuals, not as a group” (Lavell Edwards, *LaVell: Airing It Out* [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1995], 111-112).



That's No Fair!

"Those parents who want to be absolutely fair to each child often end up being furious with all their children. Nothing is so self-defeating as measured fairness. When a mother cannot give a bigger apple or a stronger hug to one child for fear of antagonizing the other, life becomes unbearable. The effort entailed in measuring either emotional or material giving can make any person tired and angry. Children do not yearn for equal shares of love: They need to be loved uniquely, not uniformly.

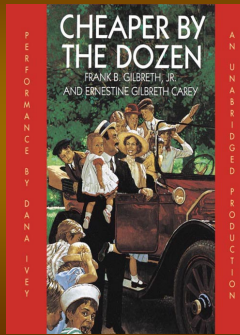
"We do not love all our children the same way, and there is no need to pretend that we do. We love each child uniquely, and we do not have to labor so hard to cover it up. The more vigilant we are in preventing apparent discrimination, the more alert each child becomes in detecting instances of inequality.

No Fair!

"Unwittingly and unwillingly, we find ourselves on the defensive against the child's universal battle cry, 'No fair!.....

*"To each child, let us convey the uniqueness of our relationship, not its fairness or sameness. When we spend a few moments or a few hours with one of our children, let us be with that child fully. For that period, let the boy feel that he is our only son and let the girl feel that she is our only daughter. When we are out with one child, let us not be preoccupied with the others; let us not talk about them or buy them presents. For the moment to be memorable, our attention must be undivided" (H.M. Ginott, A. Ginott, & H.W. Goddard, *Between Parent and Child*, Revised and Updated Edition, [New York: Three Rivers Press, 2003], 160-161).*

Only Children



*"For the dedication page of the book *Cheaper by the Dozen*, the authors, Frank B. Gilbreth Jr. and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey, wrote simply, 'To Dad, who only reared twelve children, and to Mother, who reared twelve only children'"*
*"(Scott and Angelle Anderson, "One by One," in *Eternal Families*, Eds. Douglas E. Brinley & Daniel K. Judd [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1996], 56).*

Celebrate Their Differences

"When I turned eleven, my parents gave me a beautiful edition of a great classic. I read those pages lovingly, and when I turned the last one, I wept. I had lived through them.

"Carefully, I kept the book for years, waiting to give it to my own daughter. When Cathy was eleven, I presented the book to her. Very pleased by her gift, she struggled through the first two chapters, then deposited it on her shelf where it remained unopened for months. I was deeply disappointed.

"For some reason I had always supposed that my daughter would be like me, that she would like to read the same books I read as a girl, that she would have a temperament somewhat similar to mine, and that she would like what I liked..

"Cathy is a charming, bubbly, quick-to-laugh, slightly mischievous girl," her teachers told me. 'She's fun to be around,' said her friends. 'She's excited about life, quick to seek humor everywhere, a sensitive soul,' said her father.

Celebrate Their Differences

"This is really hard for me, I said to my husband one day. 'Her interminable zest for activities, her insatiable desire to 'play,' her ever-bubbling laughing and joking, are overwhelming to me. I've never been like that.'

"Reading had been the singular joy of my preteen years. In my mind I knew I was wrong to be disappointed in the differences between us, but in the recesses of my heart I was. Cathy was something of an enigma to me, and I resented it.

"Those unspoken feelings pass quickly to a child. I knew she would sense them and they would hurt her, if they hadn't already. I agonized that I could be so uncharitable. I knew my disappointment was senseless, but as dearly as I loved this child, it did not change my heart.

Celebrate Their Differences

"Night after night when all were sleeping and the house was dark and quiet, I prayed for understanding. Then, as I lay in bed one morning, very early, something happened. Quickly passing through my mind, in just seconds, I saw a picture of Cathy as an adult. We were two adult women, arms linked, smiling at each other. I thought of mine own sister and how different we were. Yet I would never have wished that she be like me. I realized that Cathy and I would both be adults someday, just like my sister and me. And dearest friends do not have to be alike.

"The words came to my mind, 'How dare you try to impose your personality on her. Rejoice in your differences!' Although it lasted but seconds, this flash, this reawakening, changed my heart when nothing else could.

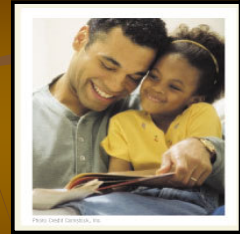
*"My thankfulness, my gratitude was renewed. And my relationship with my daughter took on a whole new dimension of richness and joy" (Stephen R. Covey, *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families*, 251-252).*

Relationship Strength: Idea #3
Spend One-on-One Time with Your Children

"I have always been impressed that the Lord deals with us personally, individually. We bless babies one at a time, even if they are twins or triplets. We baptize and confirm children one at a time. We take the sacrament, are ordained to the priesthood, or move through the ordinances of the temple as individuals - as one person developing a [personal] relationship with our Father in Heaven...Heaven's emphasis is on each individual, on every single person. (President Howard W. Hunter, "Eternal Investments," *Address to CES Religious Educators*, 10 Feb. 1989, 4.)

One on One

"Have regular one-on-one visits with your children. Let them talk about what they would like to. Teach them gospel principles. Teach them true values. Tell them you love them. Personal time with your children tells them where Dad [or Mom] puts his [or her] priorities" (Ezra Taft Benson, *Come, Listen to a Prophet's Voice* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1990], 46).



Do You Recall Those One-on-One's?



"Tom, now a middle-aged father, remembers with fondness the outings he and his father took to Minnesota Twins baseball games. It was just father and son, in the illuminated ballpark under the stars (this was before domed stadiums). It was his special time with his dad, a connection they did not experience in the same way at home" (W.J. Doherty and B.Z. Carlson, *Putting Family First: Successful Strategies for Reclaiming Family Life in a Hurry-Up World* [New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2002], 80).

Children Need More Than Love

"Children need more than love. They need continuing relationships with the people who love them. People use to talk a lot about quality time with their children. But they seemed to mean, 'I'm going to do something very nice and maybe even spend some money on you. But I only have half an hour, so enjoy it!' That is no way to build a relationship.... Relationships include taking time to be with each other. They are also about sensing the other person's unique hopes and wishes...."



Got Time?

"Relationships are not built while running a stopwatch. They grow when people take time to be together. But there is more at issue than time. We need to be in tune with the other person's needs, feelings, preferences. Sometimes the opportunity to show our love comes at inopportune times and in unexpected ways....For each person there is a different pattern of hopes, dreams, needs, and preferences" (H. Wallace Goddard, *The Frightful and Joyous Journey of Family Life: Applying Gospel Insights in the Home*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1997], 96-97).



Examples From Our Prophets

- **Example #1:** David O. McKay, taking his children with him on Stake Conference Assignments.

"Because the railroads offered half-priced tickets to children under the age of eight, Father made a point of taking one of us children with him on his conference assignments when it was practical" (David Lawrence McKay, *My Father David O. McKay*, [Deseret Book: Salt Lake City, 1989], 45-46).



- **Example #2:** Ezra Taft Benson, taking his girls on tours to various industries, including a local dairy, a soda pop bottling plant, and a chocolate factory. He wanted them to see free enterprise at work (Dew, *Ezra Taft Benson*, 137).



Ezra, Bonnie, and Omaha

"Members of the media in Nebraska were fascinated that Ezra Benson would baby-sit. Prior to meeting the press, he helped Bonnie get ready the best he could. After the interview, photographers asked if they could take photos of her. To Ezra's surprise and delight, a photograph of her made front-page news. After his address, he was asked to bring Bonnie to the speaker's table and introduce her. She received a round of applause...Ezra had to snatch moments with his children when he could"
(Sheri L. Dew, *Ezra Taft Benson: A Biography*, [Deseret Book: Salt Lake City, 1987], 234).

Relationship Strength: Idea #4 Discipline with Love and Concern

- A parent teaches their children to love God by speaking kindly to them. Bishop Robert D. Hales (1993) states,
- "In many ways earthly parents represent their Heavenly Father in the process of nurturing, loving, caring [for], and teaching children. Children naturally look to their parents to learn of the characteristics of their Heavenly Father. After they come to love, respect, and have confidence in their earthly parents, they often unknowingly develop the same feelings toward their Heavenly Father" (Robert D. Hales, "How Will Our Children Remember Us?" *Ensign*, Nov. 1993, 8-9).

Parenting Traps

1. Criticism:

"Verbally berating children because they don't perform well is no incentive whatsoever to perform well; rather, it simply heightens the child's sense of inadequacy and dampens any desire to improve behavior."



Parenting Traps

2. Sarcasm

"As with criticism, sarcasm has absolutely no healthy quality about it whatsoever. It is a desperate attempt to manage behavior in the absence of skills or competence."



Parenting Traps

3. Threats

"Threats tend to be useless and counter-productive for at least three reasons. First, they are thoughtless, vacuous statements blurted out in moments of anger; second, they are almost never carried out because they are typically so outlandish that they couldn't be carried out even if the parents wanted to; and third, they cause parents a lot of quandary as they try to wiggle out of the trap they get themselves into"

Parenting Traps

4. Logic

"Using logic is typically an ill-fated attempt to make adult wisdom attractive to a child, and seldom works. I have yet to have a parent tell me something like this: 'Upon my explaining things logically to my child, my child said to me, 'Mother, what a powerful point you have just made! I can now see the error in my thinking. From this day forward, I will make certain that my behavior is guided by your wise and mature counsel.'"



Parenting Traps

5. Arguing

"Arguing with a kid is like wrestling with a pig. They both get dirty but the pig loves it."



Parenting Traps

6. Questioning

"Parents are forever questioning children about their inappropriate behavior: 'When did you hit your sister?' 'What in the world are you doing?' 'How many times am I going to have to tell you to stop that?' and so on. Unless parents need information to help solve a problem, they should never—I repeat, never—ask a child a question about his or her inappropriate behavior."

Parenting Traps

7. Verbal or Physical Force



"Coercive attempts at managing behavior evidence themselves in the use of physical or verbal force more than in any other way, and the results are predictable: an inclination on the part of the children to avoid, escape, and/or countercoerce."

Parenting Traps

8. Despair, Pleading, & Hopelessness

"Consider this frequently heard parental lament to a noncompliant child: 'I just don't know what I am going to do with you. I have tried everything I know. I am simply out of ideas. I don't have the foggiest notion what it's going to take to get you to shape up. Do you have any ideas?' (These ideas from Glenn I. Latham, *Parenting with Love*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1995], 56-66).



- **What do such comments prompt our children to do? Comply? Plan a family takeover?**

Discipline with Love

Treat your child with love, even when they did something wrong. President David O. McKay's son tells a story of when he was on a vacation as a boy and wandered off in the morning to the beach without telling his parents where he was going. His parents woke up not knowing where he was. President McKay went searching for him and found him at the nearby beach. Instead of scolding the young boy, all President McKay said was, "It's beautiful, isn't it?" That was his way, to teach gently and with love" (McKay, 1984, p. 34). Be forgiving. It will be easier for you to speak kindly to each other. "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesian 4:1-3, 29, 31-32). Don't let the grudges crowd out the love in your heart.

Christ-like Parenting

"Before we can effectively teach our children *what* Christ would teach, we have to teach them *how* Christ would teach. His ministry was characterized by gentleness, love, patience, persuasion, charity, and long suffering (see Moroni 7:43-47). Furthermore, he was not easily provoked. We must literally be as Christ (see 3 Nephi 27:27). When we teach that way, we are safe to be with. We are attractive to our children. Our words are believed, our actions are emulated, and our values tend to become their values. They begin to identify with us" (Glenn I. Latham, *What's A Parent To Do* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1997], 27).

How Christ Would Parent

1. **Christ would teach his children what is expected of them.**

We as parents have the primary responsibility for teaching our children (see D&C 68:25-28). Though the auxiliary programs of the Church can help, the main responsibility rests with parents.



How Christ Would Parent

2. **Christ would nurture his children with 'gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned; by kindness and pure knowledge' (D&C 121:41-42).**

In all of the research I have seen on human behavior and how to shape, manage, and fix it, there is not one single shred of evidence that supports shouting, screaming, or hitting (including spanking) as defensible methods for child rearing...

How Christ Would Parent

3. **Christ would verbally express his love to his children.** 'As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love' (John 15:9). One way we can show our love to our children is simply to tell them often, 'I love you,' as Jesus did. Hearing those three words brings strength, security, and courage. How often do you tell your children that you love them?

As Christ Would Parent

"A friend told me his son once posed an interesting question to him: 'Dad, how come you only tell me you love me when you're mad at me?' The father said he analyzed his past actions and agreed with his son's assessment. He had shown greater love after his rebukes but forgot to tell his son when there was no problem. If we want our children to feel loved, we must tell them often when they are doing good things too!

"In one classic study, several thousand high school students were asked what they would most like to hear from their parents. The survey found that fifty percent of the students said they wanted most to know if their parents loved them. (Paul Popenoe, "Do Your Children Know You Love Them?" *Parents and Better Homemaking*, December 1965, pp. 43-45).

How Christ Would Parent

4. **Christ would also demonstrate his love through his actions.**

'And when Jesus had spoken these words he came again unto his disciples; and beheld they did pray steadfastly, without ceasing, unto him; and he did smile upon them again; and beheld they were white, even as Jesus' (3 Nephi 19:30). Jesus smiled at his disciples to show love for them. Facial expressions and gestures--a smile, wink, even a nod--can help show our love for our youth and acknowledge their worth and value to us. What methods or signs do you use to demonstrate your love to your children?



How Christ Would Parent

5. **Jesus would demonstrate kindness, compassion, and mercy.**

■ 'Have ye any that are sick among you? Bring them hither. Have ye any that are lame, or blind, or halt, or maimed, or leprous, or that are withered, or that are deaf, or that are afflicted in any manner? Bring them hither and I will heal them, for I have compassion upon you; my bowels are filled with mercy' (3 Nephi 17:7).

■ "Our children, like us, have bouts of loneliness, fear, depression, embarrassment, frustration, regret, and temptations. We must be there to heal their afflictions and pain with kindness, compassion, and mercy, just as Jesus did. Whatever our children need--help with a problem or assignment, an encouraging word, even a blessing--we can give them by following Christ's modeling.

■ "The Prophet Joseph Smith expressed the value of friendship as he said, 'When persons manifest the least kindness and love to me, O what power it has over my mind, while the opposite course has a tendency to harrow up all the harsh feelings and depress the human mind' (*History of the Church* 5:24).

How Christ Would Parent

6. *Jesus would use physical touch.*



'And it came to pass that when Jesus had made an end of these sayings, he touched with his hand the disciples whom he had chosen, one by one, even until he had touched them all, and spake unto them as he touched them' (3 Nephi 18:36).

"Of the many ways we can show love to other family members, touch is one of the most powerful. Perhaps it is the most direct method of communicating love. Does it seem to you that loves flows when we hug, place an arm around another's shoulder, plant a kiss on their cheek, hold hands, or even share a handshake?

The Power of Touch

"Studies show that while many parents give their infants and toddlers physical affection, hugging and kissing decreases with each passing year. By the time most children reach their teenage years, they get very little physical affection from their parents..."

"Have you ever stopped to consider how physical touch is used in the Lord's church today? Handshakes, blessings, anointings and sealings, ordinations, confirmations, baptisms, temple ordinances--all use touch to transfer power and love from the Savior and priesthood holder" (Randall A. Wright, "The Power of Love and Affection in Our Families," in *Eternal Families*, Eds. Douglas E. Brinley & Daniel K. Judd [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1996], pp. 174-178).

How Christ Would Parent

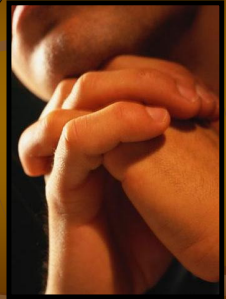
6. *Christ would allow his children to exercise their moral agency and let consequences do the talking for him.*

When asked how he governed his people, Joseph Smith answered, 'I teach the people correct principles and they govern themselves' (as quoted in *Journal of Discourses* 10:57-58). But he didn't say they always governed themselves well!



How Christ Would Parent

7. *Finally, Christ would pray for his children unceasingly.* In Alma 34, Amulek instructed the Zoramites to 'cry unto [the Lord] in your houses, yea, over all your household, both morning, mid-day, and evening'" (Glenn I. Latham, "As Christ Would Parent," in D.E. Brinley & D.K. Judd (eds.) *Eternal Families* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1996], 20-31).



Relationship Strength: Idea #5 Controlling Our Anger

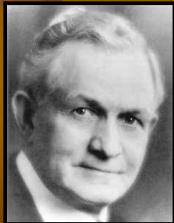
On speaking kindly to our loved ones, President Harold B. Lee gave Elder D. Hales and his sweetheart some wise counsel at the time of their marriage: "When you raise your voice in anger, the Spirit departs from your home" (Hales, 1999, p. 33). How do we keep anger from getting out of control? President Hinckley (2001) has advised us to speak softer to one another. "I hope that the noise of our homes will drop a few decibels, that we will subdue our voices and speak to one another with greater appreciation and respect" (p. 89). Try speaking kindly to your children, even if you are angry with them. "A soft answer turneth away wrath" (Proverbs 15:1). Elder Hales (1999) continues on to mention that "we must never, out of anger, lock the door of our home or our heart to our children" (p. 33).

Control Your Temper

"Now I charge you again, and I charge myself not to get angry. Never let anger arise in your hearts. No, Brigham, never let anger arise in your heart, never, never! Although you may be called upon to chastise and to speak to [your children] sharply, do not let anger arise in you, no, never!" (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, 14:156).

Self Mastery

"I learned, when I was tempted to say the unkind, thoughtless thing, to put my tongue way back in my mouth and clamp my teeth down on it; and each time I did that, it was easier the next time not to say the unkind, hurtful thing" (David O. McKay, as cited in *Spiritual Roots of Human Relations* by Stephen R. Covey, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1970], p. 113).



Control Your Tongue

"Say nothing that will hurt your wife, that will cause her tears, even though she might cause you provocation. Realize that those children are your eternal possessions, treasures of eternity. Do not dare to set an improper example towards them. You are men of the priesthood and you are leaders. Never let them hear a cross word. You should control yourself. He is a weak man who flies into a passion, whether he is working a machine or plowing or writing or whatever he may be doing in the home. A man of the priesthood should not fly into a passion. Learn to be dignified. You cannot picture Christ flying into a passion. Indignant with sin? Yes. Overturning the money changers when they insulted God and defiled the temple. Yes: But so dignified and noble that when he stands before Pilate he makes that leader say: 'Behold, the man.' Husbands and wives must learn to talk through their differences and difficulties rather than either taking them out on each other or withdrawing into a silent, sullen world of quiet anger and self-pity" (David O. McKay, *General Conference*, 2 October 1954, as cited in *Spiritual Roots of Human Relations* by Stephen R. Covey, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1970], p. 191).

Relationship Strength: Idea #6 Developing Friendships in the Family

- "Like so much of what is worthwhile in life, our needs for friendship are often best met in the home. If our children feel friendship within the family, with each other, and with parents, they will not be desperate for acceptance outside the family. I think one of life's most satisfying accomplishments for my wife and me is to have lived long enough to see our children become good friends. It's definitely a miracle that those in our family who in younger years occasionally threatened one another with serious bodily harm now seek out and genuinely enjoy each other's friendship. Similarly, I think no finer compliment can be paid to parents than to have children say that their parents are among their best friends" (Marlin K. Jensen, "Friendship: A Gospel Principle," *Ensign*, May 1999, 64).

Home Sweet Home

- **When Joseph was home, he was home; when he was away, he wanted to be home.** Joseph Smith knew the truth of a statement made by Elder Boyd K. Packer. After traveling the world and visiting many exotic places, Elder Packer was asked if he could go anywhere in the world that he wanted, where would he go? He replied, "I would go home." (As cited by J Ballard Washburn, "The Temple Is a Family Affair," *Ensign*, May 1995, 12).



There's No Place Like Home

"But," say you, "do you not think of us and home?" and do you never think of me, and of me?" This is what I have been wanting to get at for some time, and this long, tedious preface has become wearisome to me— let me tell my feelings if I can. Home! Home! Home! What shall I say? Can I tell it? No, a thousand times no! Your forms, your countenances, your bodies and your spirits are all portrayed before me as in living characters. You are with me in my imaginations, thoughts, dreams, feelings; true our bodies are separated, but there you live--

There's No Place Like Home

"You dwell in my bosom, in my heart and affections, and will remain there forever. Our covenants, our hopes, our joys are all eternal and will live when our bodies moulder in the dust. Oceans, seas, mountains, deserts and plains may separate us— but in my heart you dwell.

"Do I see an amiable, lovely woman— my feelings are not there, they fly to my home. Do I see a beautiful infant— hear the prattle of lovely innocents, or the symmetry and intelligence of those more advanced in years? My mind flies to my home— there I gaze upon my [wife], there I [hug] and kiss my children and revel for a time in this mental delight; but I awake from my reverie and find that it is but a dream...." (John Taylor, a letter written to his family from Kanesville, Iowa, on his way to a mission to France [2 Years after they arrived in the Salt Lake Valley; as cited in *A Treasury of Latter-day Saint Letters*, L.E. Morris [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2001], 35-36).