

Getting it together Children need limits; positive parents set them

By
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Ph.D.



In a kind of pendulum swing away from autocratic parental models of the past, modern principles of child-rearing sometimes over-emphasize permissiveness and understanding. Parents now feel guilty when they say "no." They are paralyzed at times by their fear of stifling their child's creativity or squelching his love for his parents.

With good intentions, these modern permissive parents are heading in the wrong direction. The truth is that children need to know about realistic limits. And interpreting those limits is one of the most important functions that a parent performs.

Instead of being so concerned with whether or not they should be setting limits, parents should concentrate on how those limits should be set. Actually, all parents set limits in one way or another. Even the permissive parent finds ways to control her children. But usually, these are indirect and manipulative to keep from being seen as the "bad guy."

The permissive mother practices the art of making her kids feel guilty. She is often heard to say: "You're going to make Mommy very sad if you keep pulling those cans off the shelf." Or a more advanced version: "I can't understand how you could treat your mother and me like this. We've never denied you anything you wanted."

At the opposite extreme is the autocratic parent who strives to be an efficient policeman and places a high priority on setting enforceable rules, demanding parental respect, and handing out punishments.

Autocratic parents are concerned with keeping a united parental front against their children. They treat every infraction with great seriousness, stomping out any resistance with the urgency of a lion tamer.

AN ALTERNATIVE to both of these extremes is Positive Parenting, a way of setting limits in a way that adds to your kids' lives rather than squelching them. Those who practice this approach take on limit-setting as one of the most significant aspects of their parental role, but they don't take it as a license for arbitrary parental bullying.

Positive Parents see themselves as advisors, teachers, and interpreters of reality. Because they have been around longer, they have knowledge about the world that is useful to the younger human beings that live with them.

And they also recognize a need for their family of individual humans to negotiate and compromise with each other in order to co-exist successfully.

They therefore try to help their kids cope with and learn about the realities of their world. Realities are things like parental needs for relaxation and privacy, nutritional needs of growing children, dangers in the environment, and limitations of financial resources.

Kids need to be taught about playing near a busy street. They need to learn that a bag of cookies is not an adequate substitute for dinner.

The key is in how these important realities are conveyed. Positive Parents try to maximize how much their kids participate in the setting of rules that affect them. This is done differently for different ages, of course, but they try to find ways in which even very young children can have a say in their own limit setting.

Giving more than one alternative to a three-year-old, for instance, is a good way to do this. Like saying: "You may have one cookie before dinner or four afterwards. Which do you want?" Older children may actually be included as co-problem solvers, participating fully in the setting of the rules.

BEING A POSITIVE Parent means looking for compromises between parental needs and kids' needs. A Positive Parent might suggest a family quiet time in which her kids refuse privacy and relaxation can be met, rather than a rigid bedtime.

Always, as much as possible, Positive Parents try to help their children understand the real reasons for each rule. Of course, this may take time, patience, and some creative teaching techniques.

But the result is that your children quickly develop their own sense of judgment and reality. Instead of being wild adversaries who you must tame, they become partners in their own parenting.

Force should only be used as a last resort. And even that should be clearly explained, consistently exercised and never used without warning. If punishments are threatened, they must be carried out with as much consistency and fairness as possible.

Moral perspectives

Issues overload consciences

Two world wars, rapid social change and crisis after crisis within a single lifetime have wrought a severe strain upon persons of conscience. People who are concerned with social and moral issues face the problem of

an overload of demands upon their conscience and their actions. Which issues can they deal with or even understand among the many which bombard them every day? For a time the major issue was

bringing an end to the Vietnam war. Then we faced the issues of women's rights and abortion. Then the ecology issue was foremost. Recently world hunger has been at center stage. Currently human rights is the concern.



By
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IT IS EASY for us to become superficially caught up with the issue before us as the media presents it in a compelling way. But soon that is past and the newest crisis is in the public eye.

The temptation is to jump from issue to issue without depth involvement. The tendency is either to ride this current bandwagon or to feel overloaded and drop out of any concern and action. Some, like the man who cancelled all newspapers and news magazines, just stop listening to all.

One way to deal with this bombardment of new crises is to develop a singleness of heart and commitment to one issue. This requires saying no to involvement in the others. This is a difficult thing for a person of conscience to do.

I feel the highest respect for persons who have maintained a vital response to a single moral and social issue over a long span of years. An example of such a person is Mrs. Gerry McNabb of the Oakland County Peace and National Priorities Center.

ANOTHER WAY to deal with this

bombardment of crises is to focus upon the deeper faith and motivation underlying specific commitment. This, done, one can think of oneself as part of a team which works out of a common motivation.

Each member works on behalf of the others in moral and social concerns such as welfare, the poor, race, peace, hunger, ecology and so forth.

This is a dream that I have always had: that it might be possible to make linkages between persons committed to the common good of society and the world. These persons could support one another out of common motivations rather than competing with each other or feeling overcome by the many needs.

It is clear that this strain upon persons of conscience and action will not diminish in the foreseeable future. We need to find ways to support one another.

World food crisis may be avoided

After a comprehensive two-year study of how global hunger and malnutrition problems might be solved, a National Research Council committee has forwarded to President Carter a cautiously optimistic report concluding that the worst aspects of a world food crisis may be avoided within the next generation.

The NRC study points out that U.S. research and development capabilities can help alleviate widespread hunger and malnutrition, given the political will and a world-wide mobilization of effort, said Dr. S. H. Wittwer, director of the Michigan State University Agricultural Experiment Station and member of the NRC steering committee that generated the report.

To cope with the highly complex subject, the study was divided into three general parts: an assessment of the world food and nutrition situation; development of recommendations on how U.S. research and development capabilities could help solve the problem; and an examination of how national and international agencies and institutions might facilitate needed research and development programs.

Fourteen scientists presently, or re-

cently, at MSU provided direct input for the World Food and Nutrition Study, reported Wittwer. Committee members recommend that most of the research be carried out in developing nations where most of the world's hungry now live. In addition, they feel that U.S. research efforts related to food and nutrition must be enlarged and reshaped in emphasis so the nation may effectively contribute to solving world food problems.

The World Food and Nutrition Study was commissioned in 1975 at the request of former President Gerald R. Ford to the National Academy of Sciences. Ford's request closely followed the first World Food Conference in Rome and was assigned to the NRC, the academy's operating arm.

More than 1,500 people from throughout the world contributed to the study, including 14 study teams that the steering committee directed to review specific research areas. Dr. Harrison S. Brown, California Institute of Technology, chaired the World Food and Nutrition steering committee.

State religious group attacks abortion rule

The Michigan Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights has issued a strong report against the U.S. Supreme Court ruling of June 20, which permits states and cities to refuse funds to female welfare recipients seeking abortions for unwanted pregnancies.

"The rich may have abortions, but the poor must have babies," seems to be the motto of both the High Court and certain members of Congress," said the Rev. Alexander Jacobs, chairman of the coalition.

The Rev. Jacobs also pointed out that one year's postnatal and public assistance costs for unwanted pregnancies carried to term, would amount to five times the cost of the requested abortions. In addition, Rev. Jacobs said, the hospital costs, paid

by public funds, arising from medical complications resulting from self-induced and back-alley abortions would amount to \$375-\$2,000 per patient.

"Will our legislators gladly vote those additional welfare funds?" he questioned. "Who will be the advocate for the unwanted children and the hundreds of dead women deemed access to adequate health care?"

He added that the coalition "stands firmly convinced the Supreme Court has denied equal protection to poor women."

"We urge state and local legislators to guarantee dignity and freedom of choice to the poor by providing the appropriate funding for elective abortions for welfare recipients," the Rev. Jacobs concluded.

GRCC sets Christmas parade date

The board of directors of the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce (GRCC) has set the date for the community's annual Christmas Parade as Sunday, Dec. 4.

Jaycees will be contacted to coordinate the

parade as the group has done in the past.

For more details, contact the GRCC office at 651-6700.

Polish Day film to show women's role

An award-winning documentary film on the role of Polish women in the struggle for "emancipation" in the 19th century will be shown as part of the monthly "Polish Day" program Sunday, July 3, at St. Mary College, Orchard Lake.

"For the Benefit of the Cause Hereafter" recounts a portion of the story of Ernestine Potowski-Rose, primary speaker at the great meeting for Women's Suffrage in 1850.

Another feminist who is spotlighted in the film is Dr. Marie Zakrzewska, founder of the New England Hospital for Women and Children. Unable to receive a degree as a doctor at several midwestern medical schools, she persevered and finally was able to open practice in Boston.

It will be shown at 2:30 p.m. on the college campus northwest of Detroit, following a mass in Polish at 1 p.m. in the college's shrine-chapel.

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Your Invitation to Worship

For Church Directory Information Please Call 644-1100 Ext. 224 The Orchard United Methodist Church 3050 Farmington Road (between 11 and 12) Morning Worship 9:30 and 11 a.m. Church School & Nursery 626-4890 Ministers: Robert L.L. Brown James F. Thomas	Beverly Hills United Methodist Church 2000 W. 13th St. at Evergreen 647-7777 Phone 647-7777 Church Office 647-7777 (Nursery through High School) Minister: William Jones NORTHBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 14 Mile and Lakewood Roads Morning Worship and Church School 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Pastors: L. J. Paterick, S. W. Boon R. W. Swales 626-4890 Ministers: Robert L.L. Brown James F. Thomas	Unity of Rochester American Legion Hall Third & Walnut Streets Unity—A Way of Life For Additional Information Call 288-3350 St. John Lutheran Church 22225 Glen Road Phone 647-2524 or 647-2525 Worship Service 1:30 P.M. Ministry Provided	Salem United Church of Christ Gardner & 5th Ave. Farmington Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Worship Service at 10:15 a.m. Parsonage 68-6447 Church Office 68-6480 Carl H. Schwartz, Minister	EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH 23425 Lakewood Road (East of H. at 9 Mile) Worship Service 10:00 a.m. The Service 9:30 a.m. The Rev. L. Alden Edmondson	Bethlehem Lutheran Church 23300 Eight Mile Road Farmington Hills ENZO M. TUORI, PASTOR 647-2578 Worship & Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Farmington Hills Baptist On Middlebelt Road Between 12 & 13 Mile Rds. Worship 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible School 9:45 a.m. Family Night—Wed. 7:30 p.m. Rev. Fred G. Davis—Pastor 651-0310 Rev. Gerald Wertz, Assistant Pastor A CONSERVATIVE BAPTIST CHURCH	FIRST APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH 2025 Woodland (at Farmington) 647-5789 Rev. Raymond Tullis, Pastor Church Office 647-5789 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. All Are Welcome	Birk in the Hills PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1340 W. Long Lake Rd. MINISTERS James F. Anderson Robert L. Lindsey Rex H. Goodrich 9:30 A.M. Worship and Church School (through grade 5) 11:30 A.M. Worship and Church School	ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH 355 W. Maple Birmingham SUNDAYS SERVICES 10:00 A.M. Holy Communion 9:15 and 10:00 A.M. Morning Prayer 9:15 and 10:00 A.M. Church School (Nursery through High School) WEDNESDAYS 7:00 and 10:00 A.M. Holy Communion	COVENANT BAPTIST New Jan. 1978 3400 W. Maple Rd., W. Bloomfield, Mich. 48303 (212) 855-1971 SUNDAY SERVICES Church School 9:45 A.M. Worship Service 11:00 A.M.	Bloomfield Hills Christian Church The Community House 380 South Bates, Birmingham Sunday: 10:10 A.M. Bible Study 11:00 A.M. Worship 6:00 P.M. Praise Service Wednesday: 7:15 P.M. Bible Study Joseph P. Lukowski, Pastor 851-8516
CLARENCEVILLE UNITED METHODIST 20000 Middlebelt, Livonia Pastor Gerald Fisher 474-3444 1815 a.m. Church School 11:15 a.m. Sunday Service of Worship Nursery Provided at All Services	ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 145 E. Super Lake Road Farmington Hills 235-2523 Minister: Dr. Roger Irwin SUNDAY SERVICES Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	First Baptist Church Bates and 10th, Birmingham, Mich. Rev. G. Middleton, Minister David W. Smith Gerrit H. Asquith, Jr. Homer A. Armstrong, Clerical 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship Service	BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH A.L.C. 5631 North Adams Road 14 Mile North of E. Long Lake Rd. 9:00 A.M. Family Worship Service Congregation Sing Sunday 9:15 A.M. Sunday School MONDAY 8:00 P.M. Evening Worship Communion First Monday Fred W. MacLean, Pastor Diane F. Scheller, Pastor MI 6-5241	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DETROIT Founded 1837 21200 Southfield Road at 8 Mile Southfield, Michigan 48033-2972 Paul Alette, Jr., Minister Church Office 647-2578 World Calendar 11:00 a.m. Sundays—Bible Study, Prayers, 9:30-10 a.m.	FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CHURCH United Methodist on Franklin's Village Green SUNDAY SERVICES Service of Worship 10 A.M. Nursery Care Senior Minister: Frank B. Cook Associate Minister: J. Chester Stubbs
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON Richard Duncan, Pastor - Phone 474-0350 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 a.m. MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 a.m. EVENING SERVICE 8:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 p.m.	First United Methodist Church 1599 West Maple at Pleasant Ministers: James W. Wright, G. Bryn Evans John H. Bence, Thomas H. Bence Church Services 8:30 and 10:00 A.M. Church School 10 A.M. Nursery Care Provided	THE FRANKLIN BAPTIST CHURCH 26109 German Hill Road at Franklin Rd. Franklin, Michigan 48023 Rev. Harold L. Leon, Pastor Phone 651-0532 "Where Christ Is Proclaimed" Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Evening Service 8:00 p.m. Thursday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Christian Science Churches FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BIRMINGHAM 191 Chester at Willis SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETING 8:30 A.M. CHILD CARE ROOM Sunday 10:15 A.M. — Wed. — 7:45 P.M. READING ROOM — 355 East Maple — 644-7935 Open Mon. & Tues. 9:30-5:30 & Fri. 9:30-9:00 except Sunday and holidays.	FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST FRANKLIN-MEADOWDALE Maple at Inlander SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETING 8:30 A.M. CHILD CARE ROOM Sunday 10:15 A.M. — Wed. — 7:45 P.M. READING ROOM—in Pine Lake Mall — 651-7740 Orchard Lake Rd. at Lone Pine Rd. Open Mon., Tues., Wed., Sat. 10:00-3:00; Thurs. & Fri. 10:00-9:00 All are welcome at our Church Services and our Bible Study.	St. Andrew Lutheran Church ICA 6251 Taylor Rd. Birmingham, Mich. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. 1 P.M. Sunday Prayers 645-0001