



# The Heart of Communication

Brent Moody · Proverbs 20:5 · Series: **The Heart of Parenting**

## INTRODUCTION

- The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.
- The behavior itself doesn't always tell the whole story. Sometimes behavior can be deceptive.
- The goal is to address the child's heart rather than just merely modifying behavior.

## 1 Good Communication Is Dialogue, Not Monologue

Deuteronomy 6; Psalm 78

- Good communication is dialogue, not monologue. Thinking about this more as talking with our children and not to our children.
- You're doing this when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.
- So do not limit communication to correction.
- Take advantage of the time you have when they're little to reinforce this concept that the lines of communication are always open.
- You'll never have the hearts of your children if you talk with them only when something has gone wrong.
- Let me encourage all of us to find times to praise our children, to commend them for the good things they're doing.

## 2 The Need to Be Clear

Proverbs 18:2; Matthew 22

- A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinions.
- As parents, we need to seek to understand our child and their heart, but we also need to put careful attention on being understood.
- Are the expectations and are the instructions age appropriate?
- Do I keep my word? Or are my children unsure if I really mean what I say?
- What matters most, both to God and to me as a parent for my children is that they love God with all their heart.
- Our family is not simply about following rules, it's about following Jesus. Rules serve a purpose, and the rule is not the goal.

## 3 Communication Needs to Be Fair and Gracious

Colossians 4:6; Ephesians 4:29–32; Proverbs 18:13

- Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

- Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, that it may give grace to those who hear.
- Be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you.
- Be careful with comparisons. Very easy to do. It's just not fair most of the time.
- Do not let emotions run the home. The loudest person and the first person to complain shouldn't always be right.
- If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.

#### THE CHALLENGE

If you haven't given yourself to him yet, today's the day. You should give yourself to a father who loves you and cares about you and wants what's best for you at all times.

#### MY NOTES

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