

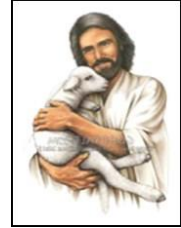
## “News from Your School”

April 2024

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Please enjoy the following Parenting article from September 30, 2022, FORWARD IN CHRIST. As parents we often are torn between being too restrictive or too permissive. Which is it? May you be encouraged by the following article, as you navigate these waters in God’s Light.

Joy in Christ! ~ Mrs. T & Mrs. Irwin

### How Can Parents Find the Balance Between Being Too Restrictive and Too Permissive?

Parenting is a balancing act. Often, we have a hard time seeing clearly that we are too far to one side until after the fact. Many parents, including myself, fall into habits that are based on emotion and may not realize that we need to adjust our approach until we see behavior or reactions in our children that are undesirable or worrisome.



We may also become so consumed with the busyness of life that we are not always mindful of how parenting decisions we make now might impact the future. It’s easy to conclude, “Parenting is difficult! Why don’t children come with an instruction manual?”

Thankfully, we do have guidance on how to approach our children—and I’m not referring to the long list of parenting books you can find online. If you read many of those, your head will spin with a wide variety of approaches and opinions. As Christians, we can lean on the Bible for guidance.

#### God’s encouragement for parents

I find it interesting, although not surprising, that God gives us what we need to know, and it matches what researchers in psychology and development have found.

- God tells us that raising children is a responsibility to take seriously.
- God tells us that we need to be consistent so as not to confuse our children.
- God tells us that discipline includes being firm (having limits) while also showing love (which doesn’t mean we have to give in).
- God tells us that we are role models and need to consider our influence on our children.
- God tells us that parenting includes teaching and encouraging.



The most important advice you will not find in psychology: God tells us to train our children in his Word and follow his commands. Because we all fall short of these things daily, we also have—and can teach our children—forgiveness through Christ’s death and resurrection. See how God treats us and teaches us, and you will have all you need to find the right balance.

## My encouragement for parents

Since parenting requires a balance between being warm and gentle while also providing structure and control, parents need to consider where their own strengths and weaknesses might be. When possible, it is good to rely on your spouse and work together toward this balance as each parent has his or her own strengths that can benefit the children. If you have a soft spot that might cause you to give in often to your children, consider how to firm up.



If you are often firm and rigid in teaching your children right and wrong, consider how to show them emotional support and connection. Children need both in a consistent and predictable manner. Remember, it's important to support each other in parenting as many parents find themselves fighting about how to raise their children.

The trend in parenting today is to let children lead, and many parents believe they are being good parents if their children like them and are pleased with their parenting. When teaching children, you will find it difficult if the goal is to make them happy. Good parents will upset their children frequently (e.g., "Eat your vegetables," "Time for bed").

Understanding that trend, I need the reminder I share with everyone else: It is important that your children learn how to deal with frustration, to struggle or fail sometimes, to be bored and problem solve, and to handle responsibility. We parents need to create an environment where they can learn these things. We need to set limits and follow through, so our children know what to expect, all the while showing them love and support as we guide them through the challenges of life.

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## COMING UP:

- Third Quarter Report Card Conferences:  
Tuesday and Wednesday; April 16-17
- Entertainment Night:  
Friday, May 10
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation:  
Sunday, May 26

