

PARENTAL GUIDANCE REQUIRED

Pt. 3 – The Big “I”

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THE BIG “I”: Maintaining Influence in Your Child’s Life

- A. When it matters most, the quality of your relationship with your children will determine the weight of your influence.
- B. In the early years, a parent’s influence is based on size and position.
- C. While control (size and position) is essential in the early years of parenting, it must soon be replaced by the objective of gaining influence through a healthy relationship with your child.

TWO REASONS TO BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR CHILD:

- 1. Your children need your influence the most when they make the decisions that matter the most in their lives. (Who they date, who they marry, what college to attend, etc.)
- 2. Your relationship with you children is what sets them up for future relationships. It will:
 - a. Establish emotional health in them, and emotionally healthy people generally have healthy relationships.
 - b. It impacts their moral choices.

Ephesians 6:4

“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

- a. “Exasperate” means to abuse your size and position to get what you want from your children.
- b. Exasperation erodes relationships and destroys the leverage of influence.
- c. Instead, influence them through relationship.

Ask the Question:

WHAT AM I DOING TO ENHANCE MY CHILD’S RELATIONSHIP WITH ME?

WHAT IT TAKES TO HAVE A GREAT RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR CHILDREN AT ANY AGE:

- a. Your children have to feel accepted
- b. Your children have to have your **TIME**