

## Good Discussion Board Posts

### Example 1 (Post):

We are told in *The Family: A Proclamation to the World* that, “all human beings- male and female, are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny. “From a gospel perspective, remembering who we are and where our children have come from, can help us be better parents. If we follow the example our Heavenly Father has set for us, we can be assured that our children will develop spiritually, psychologically, emotionally, and intellectually. Heavenly Father has given us clear commandments and expectations. Although we sometimes fall short, he never withdraws His love from us. As a parent, I need to remember to follow this example in that to never withdraw my love from my daughter. I need to be sure that I can stay consistent in my parenting so that she knows that I will always be there for her. President Benson counseled; “above all else, children need to know and feel they are loved, wanted, and appreciated. They need to be assured of that often.” Because I do not have the ideal family (a husband/father for my daughter in the home), I sometimes feel like I am short-changing her. This has been a huge struggle for me. I often feel guilty that I am not “there” for her as much as I should be, want to be and could be. I know that I have a great responsibility as a parent, and I take that seriously. I love the inspiration and encouragement I have received these past few weeks through our readings and the roundtable discussion. I especially liked President Hunter’s quote: “A successful parent is one who has loved, one who has sacrificed, and one who has cared for, taught, and ministered to the needs for a child.”

If you have done all of these things and your child is still wayward or troublesome or worldly, it could well be that you are, nevertheless, a successful parent. Perhaps there are children, who have come into the world that would challenge any set of parents under any set of circumstances. Likewise, perhaps there are others who would bless the lives of, and be a joy to almost any father or mother.

My concern is that these are parents who may be pronouncing harsh judgment upon themselves and may be allowing these feelings to destroy their lives, when in fact they have done their best and should continue in faith. This quote reminded me of my parents; how they must have felt each time I chose to make a bad decision and yet, how they continued in faith and never withdrew their love from me.

### Example 2 (Post):

I really enjoyed the advice given about the nature of children. "Whatever the nature and disposition of a given child, the Proclamation teaches the principle that parents should rear their children in love and righteousness." It is nice to know that we have so many resources available like the Proclamation. I also enjoyed the quote by James E. Faust

"Child rearing is so individualistic. Every child is different and unique. What works with one may not work with another. I do not know who is wise enough to say what discipline is too harsh or what is too lenient except the parents of the children themselves, who love them most. It is a matter of prayerful discernment for the parents."

I have struggled with people giving us advice for our 16-year-old. He has a lot of issues with his birth mother and struggles emotionally. People don't know this and therefore make incorrect assumptions. This quote made me feel better that my husband and I are doing the right thing by praying about our son and following the spirit, not everyone else's advice. What are some things that bring comfort to you in parenting?

### Example 3 (post):

The gospel perspective on the nature of children is that the children are born innocent but have the potential to be good or evil as stated in the paper by Hart, Newell, and Sine. This definition of the gospel perspective is found in a paragraph explains in detail what the restored teaches and what will happen if the "natural man" is left to rule the body. I found it thought provoking when it states that we are not evil by nature but succumb to sin: (1) when we are given wrong direction or no direction, or (2) when we willfully choose evil over good after the age of accountability. With so much evil in the world today, what would happen if guidance and direction were given in families to make sure that each person knew that their choices could lead them down a wrong path?

From the Family Proclamation, some of the responsibilities we have as parents to ensure that our children have the knowledge and understanding necessary to choose the right are:

- To provide them with love and righteousness,
- To provide for their physical and spiritual needs,
- To teach them to love and serve one another,
- To observe the commandments of God, and
- To be law-abiding citizens wherever they live.

As I read through Principle 6 in the Steinberg book, I found the 5 most important components of effective autonomy granting to be so inline with how I believe I am raising my children. These components are:

- Picking the right battles,
- Pre-approving your child's choices,
- Praising what your child chooses,
- Helping your child think through difficult decisions, and
- Occasionally letting your child learn from bad decisions.

Of these components, I think picking the right battles to fight is the hardest because it is human nature to want to be the one that is right. An example of this that I recently had was one child wants a late night snack and has gotten out of bed to ask for one. Do you get angry at them for getting out of bed? Should they get a snack?

I have examples of some of the other components but I will save them for now since I have written quite a bit.

#### Example 4 (Post):

I really enjoyed the Principle 6 in our book. The 5 components of effective autonomy granting were interesting:

- Picking the right battles,
- Pre-approving your child's choices,
- Praise your child's decisions,
- Helping your child think through difficult decisions, and
- Occasionally letting your child learn from bad decisions

I think these are great things to live by with parenting. I have seen parents who are too hard on their children when it comes to letting them make their own decisions and a lot of the time it's caused problems. It is really hard, though, when you know your child is about to make a decision you believe that it is wrong, and stand by and let them. The thing to remember is this is the way they learn. I can't imagine how hard it will be when my kids are in their teen years when I will have to do this. I have a family friend who is going through some tough times with her teenage daughter. It is only getting worse it seems. I feel so bad because the daughter is at an age where she just moved out and she is going down the wrong road. Her mom feels hopeless and the daughter is shutting her out completely. I wish there was something that I could do to help, but there isn't much.

My question is, what do you do when your child has shut you out and they continue to make poor decisions?

#### Examples 5 (Post):

I enjoyed every part of this reading.

I particularly enjoyed reading about Family Councils and developing a Family Mission Statement. I think I may have mentioned this in a previous discussion, but my husband and I take time at the beginning of every semester to talk about our goals and about what we would like to improve in order to help build our family. I see these now as "mini" family mission statements. I can definitely see the importance of having a family mission statement and in involving the entire family with them. It helps for everyone to be aware of one another's goals and expectations within the family. I loved the quote from "Leading in the Home" when it said:

"In a sense, the commitment and willingness of a family to align itself with its vision demonstrates how important the vision really is to the family. Is the family willing to endorse the mission statement by backing it up with action, or is it mere lip service or wishful thinking?"

I had the strong impression that my husband and I will need to lead a sincere example of following our family's mission statement. Otherwise, our family will only be left with a vision and no action, no growth. I can also see how family councils will help keep each family member motivated and in tune with one another's needs.

My final thoughts go back to something I learned in last week's readings. In order for these things to be implemented in the home, my husband maintains the role as the one who presides and leads our family while I share an equal role in facilitating. I need to be just as involved in encouraging and leading my children as my husband is

### Example 6 (Post)

I'm afraid I will naturally gravitate to a more permissive parenting style. It's not because of my upbringing, but more so because of my personality. I have a tendency to do things just to please others, to avoid as many battles as I can by just backing down. I'm afraid I will continue these tendencies with my children. However, with the understanding I have from the readings over the last few weeks, I have the reminder from the spirit to apply the principles of the gospel into my parenting. By doing this, I will become aware of the times I'm being permissive and have the desire to change because I can realize the harmful affects it can have on my child.

I appreciated what Laurence Steinberg said about pre-approving our child's choices. This allows them to make the choice, but I can still maintain an authority and an appropriate influence on their decision-making. Instead of going the permissive route of allowing my child to decide when and what to eat, allow my child to make the choices between eating in 15 minutes or 30 minutes and eating carrots or peas. There is still the element of agency and I am not encouraging disobedience in my child.