

# Surviving Moody Kids

*Every unhealthy family has issues. And every healthy family has them too. That's right. Even healthy families have problems. The question is...what will we do with them.*

Children are divorcing their parents!

For some strange reason, many children don't want to have anything to do with them. This, of course, goes for teenagers. There are many married individuals in their twenties, thirties, and forties who would rather not be around their parents.

The seeds you plant in your children will bear fruit when they have their own families and living in their own house.

- Your actions, your words, and your attitudes plant seeds in relationships which greatly affect the future. The law of sowing and reaping very much applies here.
- We are “now” focused people, but we need to keep our eyes on the future too.

The Bible says, “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4ESV).

- This is the biggest challenge: training them with discipline and still getting along with them. (Training them and still loving them in the process)
- Nothing hurts more than when children, whatever age, fling resentment, anger, and rebellion toward their parents?

I believe that you and I can get along with our children and still love them and have them love us in the process but it is going to take work, patience, and prayer.

Paul wrote to the Colossian Christians: *“Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged”* (Col. 3:21 NIV).

The New English Bible translates those words as follows: *“Fathers, do not exasperate your children, for fear they grow up disheartened.”*

The Contemporary English Version translates it: *“Parents, don't be hard on your children. If you are, they might give up.”*

There are ways that we make our children hostile. There are ways that we make them discouraged. It doesn't matter how old they are, they still are our children, and we can creatively learn new ways to better relate to them.

- Making babies is easy; being a Godly Parent is not for the weak at heart.
- Not all children are the same:
  - o Pokey little puppies
  - o Scattered and splattered
  - o The Contradictors

As a parent, the best you can do is focus on your parental calling and rely upon the Holy Spirit.

And, remember this: James Dobson is your friend. The Focus on the family website should be at the top of your favorites list on your search engine.

## Three God-given Purposes for Parents

*1 Corinthians 16:13,14* **13** – “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. **14** Let all that you do be done in love.”

### 1) Parents are Protectors

*Hebrews 11:23* – “By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.”

#### a) Protectors see the significance of their child.

- i) No child is ordinary; they all are beautifully made by God the Almighty.
- ii) Each child has a calling. The parent’s challenge is to recognize and protect that significant calling and the potential hazards that come to their personalities.

#### b) Protectors make sacrifices for their child.

- i) I think we need to ask ourselves just how far we are willing to go for the sake of our family.
- ii) Do I really care enough to make any sacrifice for my children?

#### c) Protectors won’t give up on their children.

- i) Even in what might seem like an impossible situation, don’t give up on them.

- ii) I believe God will honor your life long devotion to be a protector and in so doing He will make a way where there isn't a way.

## 2) Parents are Modelers

You cannot simply be protective, sheltering of a child forever.

The story of Moses' parents teaches us that we must make the most of the time we have with our children in our homes.

God knows our kids learn best from watching us.

*Deuteronomy 6:6–9 NIV – “These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates.”*

### a) Model a God-knowing Life.

- i) Love God out loud.
- ii) Deal with your problems with transparency.
- iii) Be a person of the Word.

Study the two characteristic groups listed in Galatians 5:

(1) The characteristics of our sinful nature: 5:19-21 NLT – “When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures,<sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division,<sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.”

(2) The characteristics of the Spirit controlled man: 5:22-24 NLT – “But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!<sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.”

### b) Model your gender.

Remember verse 1 Corinthians 16:13,14 **13** – “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. **14** Let all that you do be done in love.”

- i) Don't be ashamed to be a man. Don't be ashamed to be a woman. Be proud, in a healthy, humble way. God created you the gender that you are.
  - ii) Our children are growing up in a world system that elevates a unisex ideal.
    - (1) Our culture is demanding a sameness that denies the uniqueness given by God when He created male and female.
    - (2) Male and female are equal before God, but they are not the same.
  - c) Model faithfulness to your spouse.
- 3) Parents are Encouragers.
- a) Encouragers are celebrators.
    - i) Our children need to be celebrated.

If you don't celebrate them, others may not! And what happens to your kids when the wrong people celebrate them because you wouldn't.
    - ii) Your children need loving recognition.
  - b) Encouragers are releasers.
    - i) Finding the balance between *leading* and *releasing* is a challenge.

If you really take your child seriously as a person, you will encourage them, celebrate them, and release them!
    - ii) You must encourage them to be what God has called them to be and release them into it!