

Quotes from Courageous Parenting Talk

Angela Kirkby

A courageous mother has many faces.

- *She is willing to admit faults or imperfections.
- *She prays for guidance and puts herself in positions to hear the Spirit guide.
- *She is honest.
- *She enforces family rules and guidelines.
- *She allows her children to stretch and grow.
- *She stays up late to be there for her children.
- *She wakes up early to see her children off on a new day.
- *She helps guide family scripture study.
- *She encourages family prayer.
- *She is involved in family home evening.
- *She listens to her children and tries to understand them.
- *She allows them to be who they are.
- *She teaches when the Spirit whispers.
- *She helps to correct her children with love.

“If our children never know how you are going to respond in a situation it makes it harder for them to see the path.” Elder David A. Bednar, October 2009

”I remember one evening years ago, while attending a Sunday school party, I looked at the clock, and it was past the time I was told to be home. Just then a knock came on the door. I was horrified—my dad had come after me. I felt humiliated in front of my friends. I thought I wanted to die. I was not pleasant with my dad; disobedience never makes one pleasant.

“A few years later, my friends and I were driving home from a dance across an Indian reservation, ten miles from any shelter. It was 40 degrees below zero, and the wind chill continued to lower the temperature. A few miles farther into the blizzard, we discovered that there was no heat in the car. Then the car froze up and would not run. We came to a slow stop. We

watched the snow swirling in front of us only until the windows quickly froze over. We were quiet and sober as we contemplated our fate—our lives were in danger. The silence was broken as a friend in the backseat asked, ‘How long do you think it will be before your dad will get here?’

“Why do you think they thought my dad would come? One time I had thought I wanted to die because he had come after me. This time we lived because my dad came through the blizzard to save my life and the lives of my friends. This time I was pleasant with my dad—pleasant and very grateful” (Sister Ardeth G. Kapp, “Young Women Striving Together,” *Ensign*, November 1984).

“According to the great plan of happiness, it is parents who are entrusted with the care and development of our Heavenly Father’s children” (Elder L. Tom Perry, “Mothers Teaching Children in the Home,” *Ensign*, May 2010).

“The love of God does not supersede His laws and His commandments, and the effect of God’s laws and commandments does not diminish the purpose and effect of His love. The same should be true of parental love and rules.

“Some value God’s love because of their hope that His love is so great and so unconditional that it will mercifully excuse them from obeying His laws. In contrast, those who understand God’s plan for His children know that God’s laws are invariable, which is another great evidence of His love for His children. Mercy cannot rob justice.”

“God’s anger and His wrath are not a contradiction of His love but an evidence of His love—every parent knows that you can love a child totally and completely while still being creatively angry and disappointed at that child’s self-defeating behavior” (Elder Dallin H. Oaks, “Love and Law,” *Ensign*, November 2009).

As much as we want to make things easy for our kids, there are laws that govern who they are and what they become.

We can't give our children everything they want and expect them to not be spoiled.

We can't excuse them from doing hard things and expect them to build character.

We can't save them from their consequences all the time and expect them to be responsible people, NO MATTER how much we love them.

"Parents must bring light and truth into their homes by one family prayer, one scripture study lesson, one family home evening, one book read aloud, one song, and one family meal at a time. They know that the influence of righteous, conscientious, persistent, daily parenting is among the most powerful and sustaining forces for good in the world" (Elder L. Tom Perry, "Mothers Teaching Children in the Home," *Ensign*, May 2010).