

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT- SPOUSES

... **By small and simple means shall great things come to pass . . . (Alma 37:6)**

"I want to talk to you a little about your homes. I do not care whether they are simple and small or fancy and large; I care about the spirit of those homes. I want to suggest some cornerstones on which to build homes...I do not hesitate to promise that if you will go to your homes and cultivate and nurture it among these four cornerstones, your life will be happy and fruitful of great good...There will be tough times, of course. We all have them." 1. **Mutual respect.** "Respect one another. [Have] that respect which comes of the knowledge that she is a daughter of God and that I am a son of God—His children, and that if I offend her, I offend our Father in Heaven. Never forget that—mutual respect, the kind of respect that manifests itself in courtesy and kindness and patience and forgiveness and deference . . . My brethren, you will never have in all of your lives a greater asset than the woman into whose eyes you looked as you joined hands over the altar in the House of the Lord...Respect her and live with honor in your lives and there will be happiness in your lives." 2. **The soft answer.** "It was said of old that 'a soft answer turneth away wrath' (Prov. 15:1). Learn to speak quietly in the house . . . when we lift our voices tiny molehills become great mountains of conflict...Quiet speech is the speech of peace . . . of harmony . . . of love. Keep your voices down." 3. **Financial honesty.** "If you want to get ahead in life, live honestly with the Lord and then you will be more inclined to live honestly with others, including honestly with each other." 4. **Prayer.** "Get on your knees together, husband and wife, taking your turns thanking the Lord for one another and invoking His blessings upon your dreams, your hopes, your ambitions, your lives, and your children . . ." (President Gordon B. Hinckley, BYU Married Students Regional Conference, Feb. 11, 1996, as reported in the *Church News*, Feb. 17, 1996, p. 3-4)

LITTLE THINGS TO DO-

Listen
Forgive quickly
Speak highly of each other
Physical affection
Don't take offense easily
Choose your arguments
Fight Fair!
Laugh
Cleave to each other
Schedule time to be together

AND NOT DO!

Read minds
Make thoughtless comments
Take each other for granted
Point Fingers
Leave important acts undone
Leave important words unsaid
Focus on little irritations
Use annoying tones of voice
Cleave to other things
Let the relationship for stale

Marriage is preparation for the Celestial Kingdom!

Our relationship with our spouse should exemplify our relationship with our Savior.

"Think . . . of the great concept we have in the gospel of Jesus Christ, of the relationship of men and women, of husband and wife, of parents and children... Husbands and wife are companions. She neither walks behind him nor ahead of him but at his side. What a blessing if all of our people could live up to that concept. What a blessing if all of the world could live up to that concept." (Gordon B. Hinckley, Vacaville/Santa Rosa Regional Conference, May 21, 1995, as quoted in the *Church News*, Sep 2, 1995, p. 2)

"You can trace it all [marriage problems] to selfishness, thinking of oneself instead of one's companion. I am satisfied that happiness in marriage is not so much a matter of romance as it is an anxious concern for the comfort and well-being of one's companion. Any man who will make his wife's comfort his first concern, will stay in love with her throughout their lives and through the eternity yet to come". (Gordon B. Hinckley, Anchorage Alaska regional Conference, June 18, 1995, as quoted in the *Church News*, Dec. 2, 1995, p.2)

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT- FAMILIES

"Never forget that these little ones are the sons and daughters of God and that yours is a custodial relationship to them, that He was a parent before you were parents and He has not relinquished His parental rights or interests in these His little ones. Now, love them, take care of them. Fathers, control your tempers, now and in all the years to come. Mothers, control your voices; keep them down. Rear your children in love, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Take care of your little ones. Welcome them into your homes, and nurture and love them with all of your hearts. They may do, in the years that come, some things you would not want them to do, but be patient, be patient. You have not failed as long as you have tried. Never forget that! (Gordon B. Hinckley, Salt Lake University Third Stake, Nov. 3, 1996, as quoted in the *Ensign*, July 1997)

“We have wonderful people, but we have too many whose families are falling apart. It is matter of serious concern. I think it is my most serious concern. I wish to see our people walk in the light of the Lord. That’s where they will find their happiness, that’s where they will find their progress, that’s where they will find their prosperity, in walking the paths which the Lord has laid out for us.” (Gordon B. Hinckley, *Church News* interview, June 7, 1995, as quoted in the *Church News*, Sep. 30, 1995, p. 2)

“There is too much selfishness. There is too much of worldliness in our homes. We need to get back to the basics of respect one for another and concern one for another, love and appreciation for another, working together, worshipping together and living together as families who love the Lord and look to Him for light and strength and comfort. Rear our families in the nurture and admonition of the Lord as he instructs us to do.” (Gordon B. Hinckley, *Church News* interview, June 7, 1995, as quoted in the *Church News*, Nov. 5, 1995, p. 2)

LITTLE THINGS TO DO-FROM KIDS

Laugh - Snuggle in bed and talk
 Praise and support
 Say ‘I love you’ daily
 Be a friend . . . at times
 Talking about day
 Listen without getting upset
 Stay up . . . wait up!
 Traditions-Family bike rides, dates, holidays
 Lay down . . . floor, yard, anywhere
 Time away-vacations, weekends, day trips
 Play together . . . not watch
 Work together . . . not just direct-Help with projects

FROM PARENTING HANDBOOK

Be kind to each other
 Share responsibility
 Teach by example
 Be consistent
 Counsel your children
 Pass righteous judgment
 Provide a positive emotional climate
 Hold FHE regularly
 Share your thoughts and feelings
 Break the routine
 Express your love

Three Parenting Styles- (Source Dr. Brent Scharman, *Church News*, June 2, 1990, p.4)

Overly controlling and dominating

*Children last self confidence
 *Do what they’re told
 *Don’t learn to take risks, think for selves, or trust own judgment

Fostering Free Agency

*Parents teach correct principles
 *Allow children to make choices
 *Children generally develop appropriate self confidence, are motivated, can make own decisions and live with consequences or rewards of their decisions

Too permissive and liberal

*Grow up thinking anything they do is fine
 *Won’t be held accountable for actions
 *Don’t have to live by same rules as everyone else

Keys To Developing Effective Families (Ensign June, 1989) 1. Are committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ (church attendance, full payment of tithing, willingness to accept church positions) 2. Show family love and unity 3. Have goals 4. Teach and they talk 5. Have few rules, but high expectations (almost all families have 3 rules—treat each member of the family with respect, let your parents know where you are going and when you will be back, be honest and dependable) 6. Discipline is firm, but fair 7. Express their love (by telling them, doing things for them, hugs, kisses, write or phone, provide life’s necessities) 8. Support each other during adversity 9. Have extended family support (grandparents, aunts, uncles) 10. Know home is a busy place 11. Work together 12. Parents love and support each other.

“This, then, is the tried and proven formula for rearing successful families. I commend the formula to you. 1. Successful families have love and respect for each family member. Family members know they are loved and appreciated. 2. Strong families cultivate an attribute of effective communication. They talk out their problems, make plans together, and cooperate toward common objectives 3. Fathers and mothers in strong families stay close to their children. They talk. 4. Successful families try to work together toward solutions instead of resorting to criticism and contention. They pray for each other, discuss, and give encouragement. 5. Strong families support each other 6. Successful families do things together: family projects, work, vacation, recreation, and reunions. 7. Successful parents have found that it is not easy to rear children in an environment polluted with evil. Therefore, they take deliberate steps to provide the best of wholesome influences. Moral principles are taught. Good books are made available and read. Television watching is controlled. Good and uplifting music is provided. But most importantly, the scriptures are read and discussed. 8. In successful...homes, parents teach their children to understand faith in God, repentance, baptism, and the gift of the Holy Ghost. 9. Family prayer is a consistent practice in [successful] families.” (President Ezra Taft Benson, *Ensign*, May, 1984, p. 6-7).