

SECRETS OF SUCCESSFUL FAMILIES
PART 3
COMMUNICATION, LOVE, AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Introduction:

What are the secrets of successful families?

1. Successful families establish proper priorities for their family.
2. Successful families balance grace and truth.
3. Successful families encourage positive communication, love, and personal responsibility.

Positive Communication

Good communication creates a healthy atmosphere in the relationship.
Resolving conflicts in a positive way keeps damage from starting or escalating.

Our words are also very powerful.
Our words can bring blessing, strength, healing, peace, and joy.
Our words can bring life or death.

James teaches us that even though our tongue is relatively small, it will direct the course of our life.

James 3:2-4

- 2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.
- 3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.
- 4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.

2 communication killers with you.

1. The silent treatment

2. Verbal abuse

a few principles for building an atmosphere for healthy communication.

1. Create a positive and uplifting home environment.

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Ephesians 4:29 (NKJV)

²⁹Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Ephesians 4:29, NLT

29 Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

2. Make home a fun place to be.

Proverbs 17:22

22 A merry heart does good, *like* medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.

3. Create a safe home environment.

4. Work to resolve conflict in healthy ways.

Love

We are told to love one another!

John 13:34–35 (NKJV)

³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

³⁵By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Husbands are told to love their wives.

Ephesians 5:28 (NKJV)

²⁸So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

Ephesians 5:2 (NLT)

²Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

What are some other character traits of those living a life with love?

1 Corinthians 13:4 (NLT)

⁴Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud

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1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (NLT)

⁴Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud

⁵or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.

⁶It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.

⁷Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

Personal Responsibility

Deuteronomy 30:19 (NLT)

¹⁹“Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!

God wanted us to understand two things!

- 1. We have a choice.**
- 2. Our choices have consequences.**

Deuteronomy 30:19 (NLT)

¹⁹“Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses...

Personal responsibility means two things:

1. I proactively seek to do what God instructs me to do in my role.
2. I accept responsibility for failures or shortcomings in that role, and I seek to correct them.

Proverbs 28:13 (NLT)

¹³People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.

Genesis 3:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”

¹²Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”