

EFFECTIVE FATHERING
Bill Ferguson – November 2003

Here are six principles to effective fathering as suggested by Gordon McDonald – The Effective Father. These principles are for any father who has children. But look beyond this important application to the spiritual application of the Heavenly Father and His Children.

If I am an effective father.....

1. It is because I have deliberately set as one of life's highest priorities the creation of conditions that will stimulate my children to grow to their full potential.
2. It is because I have devoted myself to be an instrument and model of experience to my children
 - To be an example
 - To be a fountain of life
 - To always be available
 - To use wisdom in every situation
3. It is because my sensitivity to my family's need are ever sharp, committing my inner being to God's laws and having fixed a foresightful eye on opportunities and hazards ahead. I want to make sure that every family experience builds my children up and matures them.
4. It is because I am filling my children's lives with perspectives and patterns, which produce wisdom; I am lovingly purging their lives of unwholesome influences and tendencies that impede their progress toward maturity.
 - Importance of wisdom
 - To provide conditions to such wisdom
5. It is to accept and affirm my children for who they are, appreciate them for what they are accomplishing, and cover them with affection and love because they are mine.
 - Importance of approval
 - Create ways to express approval
6. It is because I am aware that I always live on the edge of effectiveness and must continually reach out to God for wisdom and skill to accomplish my task.
 - What to do when what you have done doesn't work
 - To understand the role others play
 - To know the essential ingredient of effective manhood

To be an effective father some additional ingredients are needed:

- a) A healthy, productive relationship with your wife
- b) A meaningful relationship with a Holy Spirit inspired Church
- c) A deep active personal relationship with the Father of fathers