

# PARENTING BY THE BOOK

## 1. REVIEW

### A. THE REFEREE'S RULE

1. WHEN IT COMES TO HOW PARENTS RESPOND TO MISBEHAVIOR, A VERY IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IS "THE REFEREE'S RULE":
  - a. NO THREATS
  - b. NO SECOND CHANCES
  - c. AND, NO DEALS
2. IF REFEREES AND UMPIRES MADE THREATS, GAVE SECOND CHANCES, OR MADE DEALS... THE GAME WOULD DETEORATE INTO CHAOS!
3. IN THE SAME MANNER, WHEN PARENTS THREATEN, GIVE SECOND AND THIRD CHANCES, OR MAKE DEALS ("IF YOU... THEN I WILL")...
  - a. CHAOS WILL REIGN IN THE HOME.
4. PARENTS WHO VIOLATE THE "REFEREE'S RULE" WILL BECOME MORE AND MORE EXASPERATED... AND WILL ULTIMATELY EXPLODE AND IN SO DOING THEY WILL EXASPERATE THEIR CHILD.
  - a. REMEMBER: EXASPERATION IS A MAJOR ROADBLOCK TO DISCIPLINING CHILDREN!
  - b. Ephesians 6:4 (NASB) Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
  - c. THIS KIND OF PARENT IS THEIR OWN WORST ENEMY.

## 2. QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

- A. Do your children know that your word can be relied upon, that it is the law?
1. Does each of them know, beyond a shadow of doubt, that when you say yes, you mean nothing short of yes?
  2. Do they know that when you say no, you mean no?
    - a. If not, why not?
    - b. Are you willing to accept full responsibility for the problem?
- B. When you give instructions to your children, do you demand or command?
1. Do you use leadership speech, or are you guilty of using milquetoast speech?
    - a. If the latter, did your parents talk in that fashion to you?
    - b. If not, what has caused you to do with your children what your parents did not do with you?

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- C. If your child **threw their belongings all over the house after school**, how would you handle it?
1. **Is it difficult for you to lower the boom on your children when they misbehave?**
    - a. Do you find yourself dealing with the same issues over and over and over again?
    - b. **If so, are you willing to accept that your reluctance to cause your children prolonged discomfort when they misbehave is a major part of the problem?**
- D. **Would your parenting be different today if you had this information two years ago?**
- E. **A thought problem:** Your ten-year-old talks back to his teacher.
1. What could you do to minimize the likelihood that he will **ever again talk back to a teacher**?

3.