

THE HARD PART OF LOVE

Sometimes loving them means saying no.

Scripture:

“In everything set them an example by doing what is good.”

Titus 2:7

We all want our children to be happy.

But **keeping them happy isn't the same thing as parenting them well.**

Sometimes love looks like a hug.

Sometimes it looks like encouragement.

And sometimes love looks like a boundary.

No.

No, you can't do that.

No, that's not acceptable.

No, there are consequences for your choices.

Those conversations aren't always easy. In fact, sometimes they're the hardest part of parenting.

But our job isn't to prepare our children for a world where they always get their way.

It's to prepare them for the real world.

Children need boundaries. They need correction. They need accountability. They need parents who are willing to say what needs to be said—even when it's uncomfortable.

And they need to know that **discipline doesn't mean they aren't loved.**

LOVE WITH BOUNDARIES

Think about what happens when we never allow our children to experience consequences.

We may think we're helping them, but we could actually be teaching them that someone else will always clean up the mess.

Sometimes the most loving thing we can do is let them learn.

Let them fail.

Let them apologize.

Let them try again.

Let them experience a consequence without rushing in to rescue them.

That doesn't mean we stop being compassionate.

It means we understand that **love isn't always about making things easier. Sometimes it's about making them stronger.**

And remember, our children are watching us here, too.

How we handle correction matters.

We can discipline from anger, or we can discipline from wisdom.

We can embarrass them, or we can teach them.

We can tear them down, or we can help build their character.

Think about one difficult conversation you've been avoiding with your child.

Pray before you have it.

Ask God for **patience, wisdom and self-control.**

Then have the conversation—not because you're angry, but because **you love them enough to teach them.**

Being a good parent doesn't mean being your child's favorite person every day.

Sometimes they may not like the boundary.

They may not understand the consequence.

They may even tell you that you're the worst parent in the world.

That's okay.

Your job isn't to win every argument.

Your job is to help them become who God created them to be.

Lord, give me wisdom to know when to comfort, when to correct and when to simply let my children learn. Help me set boundaries with love and discipline without anger. Give me the courage to have the hard conversations and the patience to teach rather than simply react. Help me remember that every decision I make today is helping shape the person my child will become. In Jesus Name We Pray Amen.