

Clingy A Letter from ha-Emeq to Sharon Harris

Dear Sharon,

Shalom in the name of our Master, Yahshua ha Mashiyach.

I need to write to you about this problem so you can deal with it somehow. There is a feeling among some people there that we are not dealing properly with our babies. Yoneq feels that there is some truth in what they say, but also some problems. It seems true that babies need to be very close to their immas for the first few years of their lives. It would be good if they did not have to send them to “baby training,” but would keep their babies with them. “Clingy” is not something abnormal that we should try to correct in babies. They *should* be clingy. When you love someone, you will cling to them. Children need to cling to their parents until they are married, when they cling to their mate.

Well, but the problem of course is that we will need to hire slaves to take care of the imma’s other responsibilities, and teachers for the other children. Or, some there want to just train *all* their children themselves. And those that have this suggestion are the ones very gifted in teaching who could do such a thing as train six different levels at one time plus care for every desire of their infant. But the average disciple is not that gifted and would need help ... this is a problem!

But, we *did* say that training should be done in the households. We must continue to try to go in that direction. There must be a way! And also, try to eliminate “baby training” for the very young babies. Let that imma only care for her baby and do household chores, but not too much.

In some ways the desires of certain women could only be met if they were in their *own separate* house — the end of the community!

But we can gain wisdom in all this. What can we do to keep our children *clingy*?

- a. We must be warmly affectionate and *tender* with them from the time they are very young.
- b. Never play with them or over-excite them.
- c. *Do not* pass the babies around from person to person. Keep the baby in the immas or the “designated child care person’s” arms.
- d. When others (especially the many youth who have baby-itis) ask to take them from your arms, politely say, “No.”
- e. Discipline them consistently when they are rebellious or independent (going somewhere without a command from you).
- f. When they are old enough for academic training, they will be trained in the household along with their older brothers and sisters whom they are also *clingy* with, so they will not be afraid.
- g. Do not encourage strong peer-group relationships.

I think this summarizes our understanding to this point.