

Four Priorities for Raising Our Children

Above all else, our children need:

- a. To know they are loved;
- b. Their needs to be met;
- c. A purpose for their lives;
- d. Discipline.

We are just gnostics if we think they will grow up straight and be secure if all we do is *discipline* them. It takes all four. Our children need to be *parented*. We need to listen to them, give them a will, and then *follow up on them*. There is a tremendous difference in how our children will respond if we focus on the first three priorities.

We are all needy parents. It is tragic if we shut ourselves off from being helped by our brothers and sisters. Sometimes the ones who have the same or worse problems as we do have the clearest insight to help us. We cannot afford to be defensive —*not one bit*. We must see that the ways that are in *us* are in our children. It is not mystical. Whatever we haven't cut off has gone directly into our children, without fail. We have to face our own condition.