

The Fear Behind Defensiveness

These are the notes of a Social Meeting called to address the fear in certain parents of their children growing up just to leave the community. This fear was producing defensiveness in them, which was affecting the people in the community who were trying to help them with their children. The people who desired to help were encountering resistance from the parents instead of affirmation. This was having widespread effects in the community.

It is only a lack of faith that would cause us to fear that we are going to lose our children to the world. If we dedicated them to our Father then He is the One who will keep them, just as He kept John the Baptist and our Master. Our children are no different than them. It is His business to keep them. This faith sets us free to win them and to obey the child training teachings.

An imma then explained the conflict she feels inside herself trying to receive the people who come to her about her children, while also trying to be her children's advocate. She described a situation where a brother came to her, whom she feels is somewhat harsh or quick to judge children, about something her child had done. After listening to her child's version of the story she went to talk to an older youth, who was also present. The older youth felt that what happened was much different than what the brother had said. What was she to do?

In response, someone pointed out the real problem is how you communicate to your children. The grave danger is that you would discount what a brother or sister said in front of your children.

It turns the children into self-righteous people, judging people who come to them to correct them. This is what happens when we defend our children.

ha-emeq — We have to be parents who seek justice. That is, we try to understand what actually happened. But we have to know that there is a reason for that adult's concern, even if the incident was not exactly as he related it to us. If we don't understand others when they come to us, we won't have understanding for our children either.

On the Day of Preparation before this meeting an underground had been exposed among some of the youth. One of them had even taken some money from the tips at the café, which some others had spent (part of). In discussing this, we learned an important distinction.

If you are a thief you will always steal. Someone who steals but doesn't keep doing it is not a thief. We cannot allow thieves to be among us. If we have mercy upon someone who has stolen, we will find out whether he is a thief or not. If he is, then he has to leave the community. There was a brother in Gad upon whom I poured out all my bowels of mercy but he stole again. He took large amounts of money each time, and he is gone.

We also discussed a situation where a father had inadvertently said very harmful things to his child, comparing him to other children, driving worthlessness into him.

If we break our children's spirit, take away their hope, it is no different than murder. Even Paul said it is unwise to compare yourselves with others (2 Cor 10:12). It is certainly not wise to compare our children with other children. Verbal abuse is the worst sort of child abuse.

His wife explained that her husband does not do these things intentionally. He is not trying to hurt his son. In fact, he thinks he is dealing with the problem and helping him. The father, in tears, was explaining that he really does love his son, but he is beset with this particular iniquity passed on to him by his father.

We cannot take years to be healed of these things. (Then he addressed the abba personally.) You must not be asking our Father for wisdom, knowledge, discretion, and understanding. If you were then you would have what follows asking — discretion, and everything else, to speak to your son in a way that does not destroy his spirit. If we are asking for wisdom and discretion and not receiving it, then we are doing something that is not pleasing in His sight, and we must find out what it is (1 Jn 3:22). We can't raise our children simply with the wisdom of this world, natural wisdom. We have an enemy and he is actively opposing us. It doesn't really threaten him if people in the world raise their children with some kind of righteousness.

Then one of the other main topics of this meeting came up in regards to tension between this father and his covering in industry, which often ended up involving this man's son. One time it reached the point of the father saying to his son that the father's covering was spreading discord.

You are a better man than he is if you submit to his (harsh) authority. We have said this from the beginning (1 Pet 2:18-25). You shouldn't have said that to your child. If we have wisdom we can cover those in authority. We returned to the topic of how parents are to view people who are "strict" or "overbearing" with children. This is often a situation that causes tension even in marriages, where one parent, usually the abba, is "harder" on the children than the other.

*ha-emeq — Our children should admire strict people and be thankful for the merciful people. We have often spoken of the strict, even harsh drill sergeants, who turned worthless young men into disciplined soldiers. Their severity was good. So, inside you may still have that sense that something is wrong (motivating you to get help for a person who is being unreasonable or unjust), but your children can **never think** anything but that this or that person in authority is the **greatest disciple**.*

Someone pointed out that when we don't do this is how we produce self-righteous children...

Keli — And then you have a crop of boys (or girls) in the Body who go around spreading discord for twenty years

We are to be the third incarnation of Messiah and we cannot be so if we do not command our children after us to keep the way of YHWH.

ha-emeq — The command to Abraham to raise our children is really the most important thing. We have to get our sons. Abraham did. Look what happened, he had Isaac, Isaac had Jacob, and then the twelve tribes came about. It is a picture of what has to happen to us as a people to bring forth the Male Child. If we can't get our sons it doesn't matter whether we are evangelizing and spreading out everywhere.

Yoneq — It is hatred of our children for us to pass on our iniquities to them (Ex 20:5).

Then the immah of the troubled child spoke up with passion:

I know that this has come upon me is because I have not been faithful to begin each day crying out for wisdom and understanding. I remember so clearly that day under the tent in Oak Hill, Yoneq, when you looked out at me (it seemed) and said, "Who did not cry out for wisdom and understanding?" When you looked at all the hands raised you said, "There it is; the 50% foolish who don't cry out everyday for wisdom and understanding and the 50% wise who do." We are so foolish if we think we can raise up the Twelve Tribes of Israel without crying out for grace, wisdom, and understanding.

Please, take every opportunity you can to approve your children. It is natural law that people thrive on approval and encouragement.

ha-emeq — You feel that you need to defend your children when you don't have a good conscience that you have been approving and affirming them. When we lack that confidence we defend our children. Deep down we sense they can't take so much "correction." They aren't secure in our love for them because we haven't been telling them how much we love and appreciate them.

A training teacher explained the excellent response she produced in a pre-youth when she explained to him that, "It is really wonderful that you get a lot of discipline. You are really going to be helped a lot. You are getting disciplined for all these things because you need it."

People treat the hour of preparation before the minchah as much less important than the minchah.

ha-emeq — And we have always said it was more important.

If you spend that time with them, appreciating their existence, you will bless them greatly. Ask them how their day went, how they are doing. Take an interest in them.

In regards to a report that some children were not going back to the people they had offended or disobeyed to repent to them...

Our children will learn to verbalize the right and wrong of what they did when we teach them to go back and repent to the adult they offended.