



The Battle for Our Children's Hearts
Amy Rienow

I. God calls us to be the keeper of our children's hearts

- A. Proverbs 23:26, My son give me your heart.
- B. God has a plan for your kids - Satan has a plan too.
- C. Joseph and Jacob

II. Key Scriptures

- A. Proverbs 4:23, Keep your heart with all vigilance for from it flows the springs of life.
- B. Deuteronomy 6:5, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength.
- C. 2 Chronicles 16:9, For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth so that he may support those whose heart is completely his.
- D. Remember God cares most about your children's hearts (ie King David)

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III. The battle has always been about the heart

A. "The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world."

B. America and Western civilization (Robert Lewis Stevenson and Mary Poppins)

IV. The importance of prayer

A. Praying with others (especially your husband if you are married)

B. Ephesians 6 - The armor of God

V. Four areas of attack and "counter-attack."

Hearts are not demanded, they are wooed and won.

Attack: You will be tempted to pull your heart away from your children.

Counter-attack: Woo their hearts - be present and interested.

Laugh with Your Kids - <https://www.youtube.com/visionaryfamilyministries>

Attack: You will be tempted to push your kids away too soon.

Counter-attack: Woo their hearts - accept your kids for who they are, and that they need you.

Attack: The world will seek to pull your child's heart away.

Counter-attack: Woo their hearts - draw them in.

Attack: Your children will be tempted to push your heart away.

Counter-attack: Woo their hearts - be committed.

Conclusion and Prayer

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Training Children in Godliness, Abbott, 19th century American minister, educator and author

Make it a special objection of attention and effort to gain an influence over the minds of the children whom you shall find within your reach. Parents often pay too little attention to this. Their fellowship with children is only the necessary contact of command and obedience. A father who devotes some time daily to involving himself in the pursuits and pleasures of his children, talking with them, playing with them, or reading stories to them, will gain an ascendancy over them which, as they grow up, will be found to be immensely powerful. They are bound together by common feelings, by ties of affection and companionship, which have a most controlling moral influence upon the heart. It is however often neglected.

The man overwhelmed with business, or burdened with cares, does not descend to the level of the child. He sees that his boys are trained up according to rule, confined by proper restraints, and supplied with proper instruction. However, no strong ties of interest or affection reconcile the little pupil to the restraints or give allurements to the instruction. Consequently, when he is passing from 12-15, or from 15-20, the parent gradually finds that although all has been right to his eye, his child's heart has been going on in a course totally different from the one he intended. The alarmed and disappointed parent tries to bring back his son, but he finds to his surprise and sorry, that he has no hold upon him. Though they have had breakfast, lunch, and dinner, for 15 years, they have been in fact strangers to each other all the time. They have moved in different circles, have had different pleasures, different pains, different hopes, and different fears. The son could not ascend to the region occupied by the father, and the father would not descend to that of the son. Thus they have they have been physiologically divorced, and the father finds he has no hold over the heart of his child, only when it is too late to acquire it.