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WHICH HOME IS YOUR HOME?

In the village where I grew up there are four kinds of homes. But in these homes are the same kinds of people. Proverbs 19:22 says "What a man desires is unfailing love." (NIV) And this is the same longing in both adults and children. We see these different homes because a person's core motivation behind their actions is missing the "unfailing love".



In the **Chaotic Home** there is no love and no discipline or control. Children get yelled at a lot but do what they please. They tend to become introverted - this makes them learn to hate. Being introverted is their survival mode and a breeding ground for hate. They grow up full of rage and turn to violence, substance abuse and often suicide. But under this behaviour is resentment for the deep longing of unfailing love.



In the **Permissive Home** there is love but not much discipline. Parents pull love and respect from their children to feed their own personal needs as parents. They avoid facing conflict and

become good at denying that there is anything wrong. The children feel used and grow up with strong feelings of anger, guilt and shame. Many single parent homes fall into this category.

Both of these homes produce lots of pain. To numb this pain, people turn to compulsive drinking, drugs, sexual sins and pleasure seeking. Naturally, this causes problems in the community.

As a result the **Oppressive Home** kicks into place. It has lots of discipline but not much love. The parents become strict and start making lots of rules. Children become fearful and feel misunderstood and learn ways to cope



by manipulation. Manipulation can even show itself as a model-child. As in 2 Kings 8:7-15, King Ben-Hadad's servant, Hazael, portrayed himself as being trustworthy and reliable, yet he had plans to murder the king, his own master. As children get older they start looking for love and acceptance outside the family, often in the wrong places. As a result, teenaged boys become immoral and teenaged girls become pregnant.

I believe these three homes have contributed to most of the adolescent defiance, violence, depression and suicides in my community. Children from these homes are not experiencing 'unfailing love'. They are hurting so much that they easily accept the short-term fulfillment

of drugs, alcohol, and free sex. It is hard for them to accept the long-term promises and values of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Still, a few families are working to build the **Ideal Home**. In this home love and discipline are both strong. While respecting their child's dignity, these parents also understand and deal with their child's sinfulness. They recognize their own failures. They repent and apologize to the children. They spend time with their children doing profitable and enjoyable things. When a problem or conflict arises, these parents stay involved until the problem is solved. In this way they can be strong, kind and loving leaders without being demanding. The children then learn to be free and open, to be themselves. Feeling their parents' respect, they in turn respect their parents.

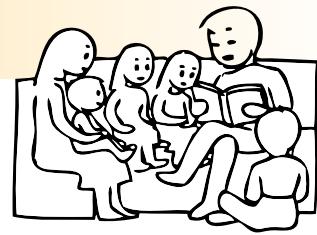


Many homes are mixtures of these four types. In every home there is some disappointment and pain. Every parent makes some unwise and hurtful decisions. To build the Ideal Home, parents must face the pain, repent of wrong responses, forgive and be forgiven, and accept God's provision for the deep longings of the heart.

(Adapted with permission from a seminar by Gary Quequish, Sioux Lookout, ON)

Family Bible Study

AN OLD TESTAMENT HOME



Is there an Ideal Home in the Bible?

The home of Elkanah was a good one. Read I Samuel 1:1 - 2:12. Then write the number of the verse in which you find the following good things about Elkanah's home.

1. He worshipped God regularly. Verse _____
2. He involved his whole family in worship and religious activities. Verse _____
3. He talked sympathetically to his wife when she was sad. Verse _____
4. He loved his wife. Verse _____
5. He trusted his wife's decisions for their son. Verse _____



But even in this good home there were some problems:

1. Elkanah had a second wife who became a rival to the first. Verse _____
2. He allowed the conflict between his wives to continue unchecked. Verse _____
3. Although he was sympathetic, he did not really understand Hannah's feelings about not having children. Verse _____
4. He allowed his son to be raised by a priest whose own sons were wicked men.
Verse _____

In spite of these problems, Elkanah's son Samuel grew up to be a great prophet. However, when Samuel got old, the people said this to him (I Samuel 8:5):

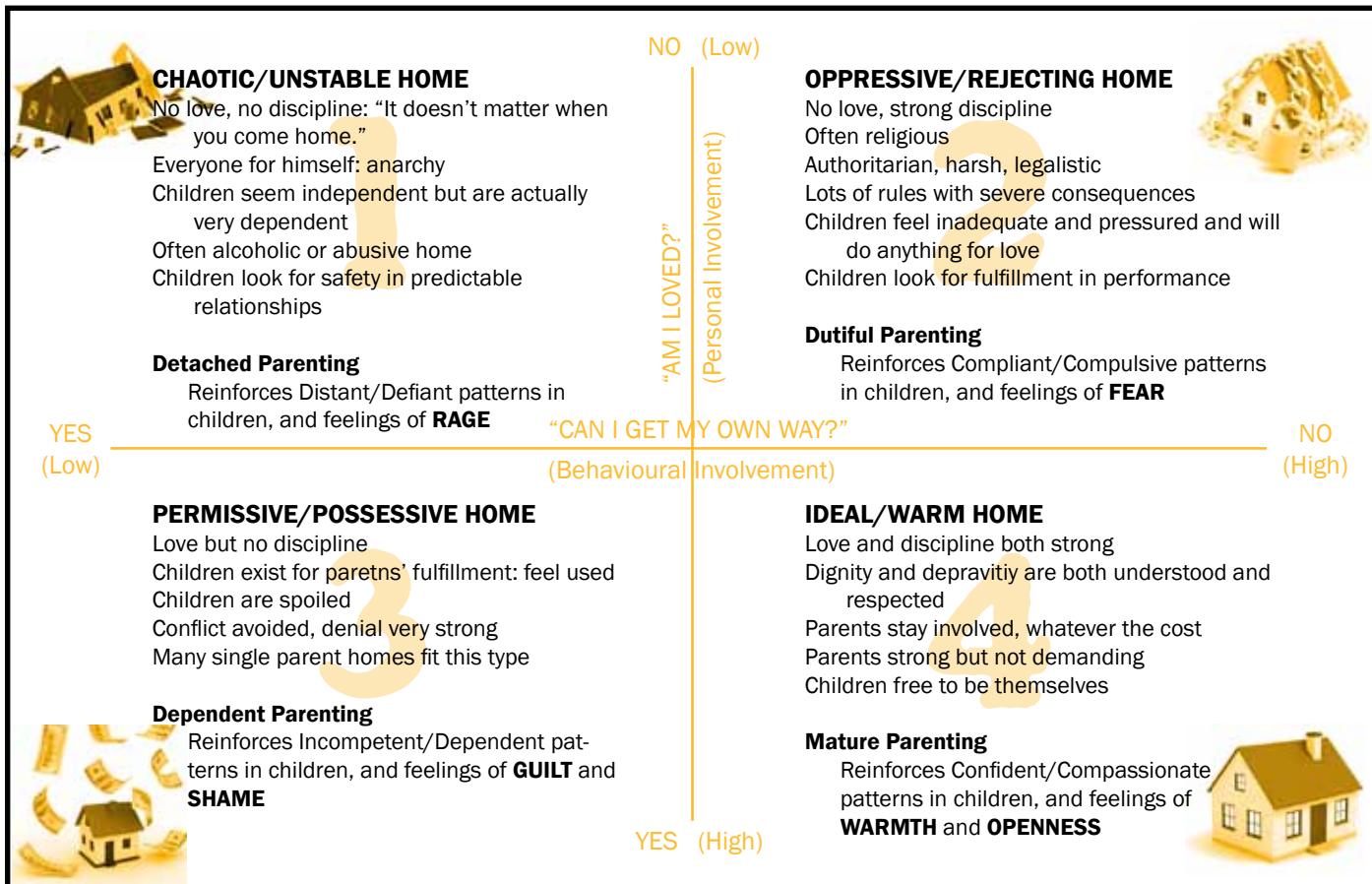
Read again the descriptions of the four types of homes on page 1. Which type would you say best describes Elkanah's home? If Elkanah came to you for advice, what counsel would you give him?

What Do Children Want To Know?

Two questions nearest to the heart of every child are “Am I loved?” and “Can I get my own way?”

Children long for a high degree of personal involvement from their parents that lets them know, “Yes, you are loved.” They also long for loving behavioural involvement that tells them, “No, you can’t get your own way.” These two types of involvement help a child learn both the grace and the righteousness of God.

If personal involvement is low, children feel, “No, I’m not loved.” If behavioural involvement is low, children learn that they can do as they please. These two questions can be answered in four different ways. The ways parents live out these answers produce the four types of homes you read about on page 1.



Home 1: the *Chaotic Home*, comes from Detached Parents whose actions tell their children, “No, you aren’t loved. Yes, you can have your own way.”

Home 2: the *Oppressive Home*, comes from Dutiful Parents whose actions tell their children, “No, you aren’t loved. No, you can’t have your own way.”

Home 3: the *Permissive Home*, comes from Dependent Parents whose actions tell their children, “Yes, you are loved. Yes, you can have your own way.”

Home 4: the *Ideal Home*, comes from Mature Parents whose actions tell their children, “Yes, you are loved. No, you can’t have your own way.”

Used by permission from Gary Quequish, Sioux Lookout, ON

“YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME. SURELY GOODNESS AND LOVE WILL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER” (PSALM 23:4B, 6).



Today's Native Mother

Dear Mothers,

Authority in the home can seem complicated. But this is also a beautiful part of family life. But because it's so misunderstood, it is a very touchy subject to many people.

We ladies were created softer and more expressive with our feelings than men. God knew this is the way to experience a lovely home and family. The men are often bigger in size, deeper in voice, stronger in muscle and more capable in troubled times because God planned for them to protect and lead us. As we ladies find our place under the strong protection of our husbands, it's secure. It's relaxing. It's satisfying because we are fulfilling our God-given role.

Ever since the fall of Adam and Eve, women have been trying to take control and men have been retreating from leadership responsibilities. This violates God's perfect plan for a beautiful family, and is one of the main reasons families are having so many problems today.

Ladies, enjoy being what you were created to be. Relax under your husband's strength. This will encourage him to be a good leader.

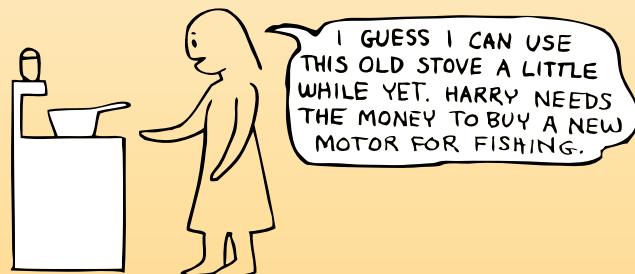
But what do we do when our husband doesn't take his authority and leadership in the home?

First, recognize your husband's good qualities. Encourage him. Make a point of telling him at least one of his good qualities every day.

When you see where your husband should be giving direction, respectfully ask him what he thinks is best.

When talking to the children, always refer to Daddy as the leader. Show support for his authority by saying things like, "Let's ask Daddy what he thinks." If they ask you for direction when he is with you, say, "See what Daddy says" or transfer the question to him by asking, "What is your suggestion, dear?"

When he does lead out, be sure to recognize it and build on it. Let him know you appreciate his ideas and his protecting care. Sit down with your husband sometimes and discuss leadership. Let him know you want to support him and that you trust his wisdom.



Nagging is one of the most subtle ways we ladies exercise authority. Watch your tone of voice and be careful of the demands and pressure you put on your husband. "Get this." "Bathe the baby." "Feed the kids." "Pick up your clothes." "Make some food." Gently ask your husband from time to time to help you with something. If he does help, show your appreciation. If he doesn't, leave it. Later you can ask again.

Let's make a clear effort to have love and unity in our homes by fully enjoying the role God has for us... helper, supporter, and homemaker.

Sharing and caring,

Donna

FAMILY FUN

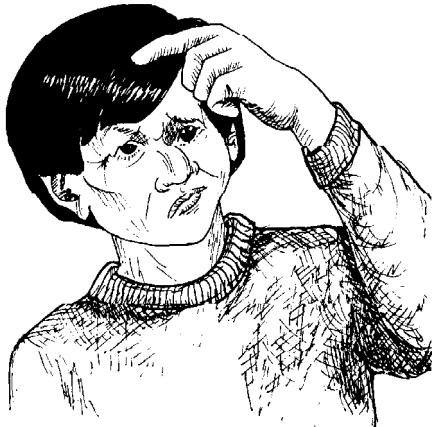
Aggression Cookies

3 cups oatmeal
1 1/2 cups brown sugar
1 1/2 cups flour
1 1/2 cups butter
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder

Dump all ingredients into a large bowl. Mash it! Knead it! Pound it! The longer and harder you mix it, the better it tastes! Roll dough into small balls. Bake on cookie sheet at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes.



Reflective Parents Make Better Parents...



REFLECTING ON YOUR FAMILY

Think about what is going on inside.



Talk about your feelings.



Listen to your partner.

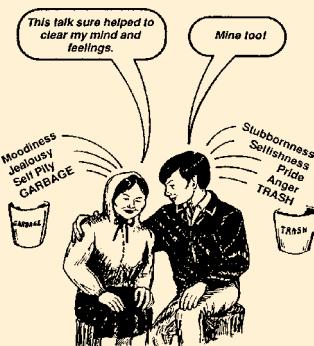


...listen much and speak little.
(James 5:16 NLT)

Make sure you understand each other.



Clear the air of bad feelings.



Enter into the hearts of your children.



...speaking the truth in love...
(Ephesians 4:15)

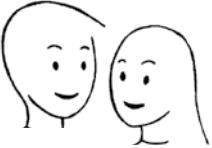
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Smile Awhile



How God Develops Patience In Young Moms

Mom: Son, please go to the drawer and get three spoons.

3-year-old Son: Three spoons? To the drawer?
Shall I get three spoons? These spoons?
Spoons like these?
(Holds up fistful of teaspoons, soup spoons, and serving spoons)

Mom: (Holds up spoon she is feeding one-year-old sister with) Like this!

Son: Like that? Like these? Shall I take these?
These spoons? Three of them? These?
Mom, I got three spoons! (Hands her about ten)

Mom: Here, put those away again.

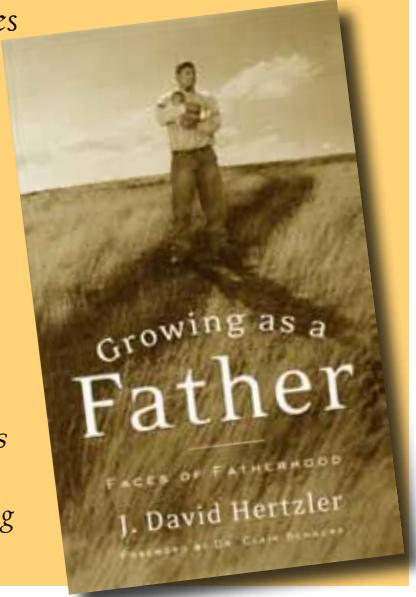
Son: Put those away again?

Mom: Now get three knives.

Son: Three knives? Where are the three knives?
Mom? In there? Are they in there?
Over there in there? Where are the knives?
I can't find them. Show me where are the three knives.
Show me where they are because I can't find them.
Umm...maybe right here. Oh, here are some knives.
Mom! Here are some three knives.
Not forks? Not forks?
Shall Mommy and Daddy need forks?

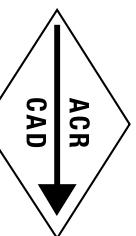
"Men are under increasing attack. They are being called losers, weak, unable to make commitments. Yet North America's Native Peoples have a long tradition of men who were strong and victorious."

This is a small 214-page book that holds a collection of stories from 26 different fathers. These stories originally appeared in other issues of *Today's Native Father*.
On sale for \$5 plus shipping from NYM Ministries.



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