



A Grandparent's Perspective

Children, like a wife, are not an accessory so one can say "I have or possess one." Nor to show them off to say, "I am a good parent."

Children are to be loved and appreciated (valued). How is this done? One must enjoy their presence. Spend time with them. Care and provide for their needs. Talk with them, not yell at them. Teach, protect, discipline, and encourage them in good and hard times. They are a privilege to have, not a burden to bear.

Children know when they are wanted and loved. They know when they are cherished or an imposition in one's life. They are not stupid and should not be treated as such by an insensitive parent who is just acting out his own childhood doing what his insensitive parents did to him.

Many parents talk about loving and caring for their children, but the proof of the issue is in their actions toward the child, and more importantly the child's response toward the parent. If asked the question, "Do you know your parent loves you and that you are important to them?" What would the child say?

If you do not know you are loved, you cannot love others, because you are seeking to be loved. Parenting and marriage classes cannot help a parent who is selfish and does not value another whether it be a child or a wife, or a husband. Because you cannot bring out the best in another, if you do not see the best in yourself. Abused children become abusive spouses and parents.