

**Structure, Predictability, and Change;** Series: How to Keep Your Kids on Your Team

Resources: *Love & Logic, Baby Wise, Secrets of the Baby Whisperer*

A. The “behavioralist” school of parenting (early 1900s) – *only* structure

1. \_\_\_\_\_/the schedule is the absolute most important part of raising a child

B. The Neoprimativistic School of child care (1950s to present) – *only* flexibility

1. What is most important are the child’s developing \_\_\_\_\_

a) meeting the baby’s perceived, immediate needs determines when, how & what everyone else in the house (especially mom) is doing

b) Many believe that good parenting means that the baby/child should control everyone and everything in the house and home

C. Seeking Balance (the way of *Love & Logic, Baby Wise & Secrets of the BW*)

1. Good parenting demands a \_\_\_\_\_ between flexibility and structure, predictability and change, and a child should never become the center of a household, rather they should be integrated *into* that household.

D. A “Flexible, yet Structured Approach” to Parenting

1. Peace and calm usually do not come in the midst of \_\_\_\_\_, rather they are most easily found in the midst of structure and routine – this is why kids must have structure/routine (otherwise they will never be calm/at peace)

2. Of course, the problem with structure and routine is that, if there is no change or flexibility, eventually there is atrophy and even death.

3. How are we supposed to find peace and calm in structure and routine, when we need change/flexibility to keep from withering up and dying?

E. Matthew 7 – Jesus on solid foundations

1. Strong \_\_\_\_\_ and solid structures will yield strong and solid lives; weak structures and weak foundations will lead to a sinking ship

2. But, life with only structure & no flexibility is stifling (people who are inflexible are notoriously unhappy & difficult people)

3. With the structure & the foundation in place, you can be extremely flexible concerning the carpet

a) There is much more flexibility concerning the things that don’t involve the foundation or the structure required to keep the house standing

F. The issue of priorities, values, beliefs, and ultimate concerns

1. What are the foundations, the core structures that you are building the lives of your kids around? Where are you firm/immovable? Where are you flexible?

2. A Few Structures/foundations to Consider:

- God, Family, \_\_\_\_\_, Minimum TV, others?

G. Let’s love them enough to allow them to learn the necessary and crucial skills of responsible thinking and living, of building their own lives around the solid foundations, that will truly stand the tests of time (storms of life)

A. structure B. emotions C. balance D. change E. foundations F. Sleep