

diately correct somebody, when the children have the grace & the Love not to do it, it really makes you sit up & notice. It's amazing! It's startling when kids don't do it!

16. MOST OF US DO IT TO SOME DEGREE, & IT'S SOMETHING WE ALL NEED TO WORK ON, NOT ARGUING OR CONTRADICTING. But when children don't do it, it's a real amazing sample to other people, to outsiders. It's the difference between having arguing, fighting, bickering, contradicting kids & kids that really love each other & cooperate & work together in harmony. It makes all the difference in the world.

17. (SARA: I THINK HAVING LITTLE BABIES OR LITTLE TODDLERS IN THE HOUSE GIVES THE KIDS A CHOICE. They can either get frustrated with them & argue with them or they can kind of laugh at the cute funny things they say & eventually learn to let it pass. They can either nag them & get aggravated about it or they can kind of laugh it off & let it pass & think it's cute.

18. (THE LITTLE GIRLS JUST LOVE DAVID, EVEN THE BABY! THEY JUST GO AFTER HIM, TO PLEASE HIM & GET HIS ATTENTION. Mary Dear tries to talk to David about big machines & says it all wrong & calls them the wrong name & David just goes along with it. He'll finally correct her nicely & say, "You know, it's not a "boadozer", it's a bulldozer." It's really cute. He's learned amazing patience with little ones. But even David & Techi who have a tendency to bicker among themselves have done much better & have especially learned that patience with the little ones, which I never had the advantage of in the System.)

19. YES, IT'S JUST A NORMAL THING FOR KIDS TO DO, WHICH CAN VERY RARELY BE CORRECTED WITH UNSAID KIDS. And then you grow up & you continue to have the same habit, you carry it with you & you bicker & contradict people. It takes a major change in your life to get over your bad habits of arguing.

20. I THINK THERE ARE A LOT MORE POINTS ALONG THIS LINE & A LOT MORE THAT COULD BE EXPANDED ON FROM OTHER PEOPLE'S EXPERIENCE & MANY DIFFERENT POINTS THAT WE HAVEN'T MENTIONED HERE or we're not thinking of right now. It's a big subject that just isn't going to be sufficiently covered in one morning's talk, but it is something that you constantly have to be teaching & showing the teens—how to say things nicely.

21. WHEN DAD'S TEACHING & ASKS A QUESTION, & SOMEBODY ANSWERS & MAYBE THEY SAY THE WRONG THING, HE DOESN'T SAY, "NO! THAT'S NOT THE RIGHT ANSWER!" Neither does he just ignore it but he says something like, "Oh, that's an interesting answer. I see why you thought that." Or, "No, not exactly, but pretty close." The teens can learn to do that with each other too & they need to because it's really a part of lifting other people up & letting others increase while you decrease, by letting others have the benefit of the doubt & not embarrassing people or belittling them.

22. YOU CAN ALSO BRING IN ABOUT WHY ARGUING IS SO BAD & IS SUCH A BAD HABIT TO GET INTO. It's pushing your point & it's self-righteousness, thinking that you're so great & you're always right. It's all on the same subject & can be overcome with Love!

"DO UNTO OTHERS"—Another Aspect of Showing Love

Maria Ltr. No. 55, 9/86

"Let me be a little kinder,
Let me be a little blinder
To the faults of those
around me.
Let me love a little more!"



1. A BIG PART OF LOVE IS BEING POLITE & COURTEOUS & CONSIDERATE. When I talked with Techi about not drawing attention to David's pimples as it would embarrass him, she said, "That's a good lesson." It was like she didn't even realize it would embarrass & hurt him, & if she doesn't realize that, as exceptionally considerate & compassionate as she is, you can imagine that most children probably wouldn't think of it either.

2. IT WAS A GOOD POINT BROUGHT OUT BY THE JAPANESE TTC STAFF about how the adult Room Shepherds can be sitting together in the dining room & if they even look at a certain teen & then turn to speak to each other,

the teen is certain they're talking about him, even if they aren't! You can see that we all can learn continually how to consider others' feelings. We can't expect too much of our children in this area when we adults have so far to go ourselves.

3. **NEVERTHELESS, WE NEED TO TEACH OUR CHILDREN, & TRY TO BE GOOD EXAMPLES OF THE SAME, TO NOT CALL ATTENTION TO PEOPLE'S ELEMISHES OR WEAKNESSES & EMBARRASS THEM WITH OUR THOUGHTLESS COMMENTS.** Techl didn't even realise that her talking to David about his pimples would make him feel bad. I got the impression that she has talked about it quite a lot.—Nothing malicious, but just drawing a lot of attention to it often, like a little nurse wanting to see how they were doing, because she didn't realise that it made him feel self-conscious & embarrassed & sort of inferior & different. It's really been a trial for him lately! So if she of all people, who tries to go out of her way not to hurt people, considers this a brand new lesson, not to call attention to things that are different in other people, then think of how all our children need to learn these lessons on how to consider others' feelings!

4. **WE EVEN PUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN THE "LIFE WITH GRANDPA" TKS ABOUT NOT MAKING FUN OF OVERWEIGHT PEOPLE & UNDERSTANDING & SYMPATHISING WITH THE HANDICAPPED.** Well, being kind to the handicapped is one thing, but you can apply that lesson to any peculiarities. But children, & even adults, sad to say, are not always mature enough to apply a lesson to related situations. If the TK says, "Don't stare at or make fun of handicapped people", they don't always also get the point that they're not supposed to make fun of or call attention to somebody else who isn't handicapped. So Techl said, "That's a good lesson", like it was something new & different. Also David's been stammering a little once in awhile when he gets excited in telling us about his day's activities, & Techl hadn't seemed to realise that pointing it out or even imitating it would bother him either. I guess since they love each other & they're so close, & their intentions are not malicious, it never occurs to them that the other one would have a trial over it or feel hurt or embarrassed.

5. **I'M SURE AT THE TEEN CAMPS THEY MUST BE HAVING A LOT OF THAT, NOT ONLY UNINTENTIONALLY BUT ALSO INTENTIONALLY, TRYING TO PUT OTHERS DOWN & ELEVATE THEMSELVES.** Think of the many areas where children can hurt each other with their open comments & embarrassing statements, or even making fun. I was thinking about little girls with small

breasts compared to the other girls there who are more mature. That could be a real embarrassment to the ones who aren't yet developed. And even the boys, some of them are real skinny & small.—Also pimples, that's another embarrassing ailment that a lot of teens have that others have been known to call attention to or make fun of.—And some of them are fat & should be on diets, true, but that means they're all the more embarrassed & feel inferior about it. Very short or very tall teens feel out of place too, & even more embarrassed & humiliated when others make fun of them or joke about their physical characteristics. Protruding teeth or irregular, yellow or even missing teeth can be very embarrassing, as well as scars & warts. Stuttering or stammering is something that children are really prone to imitate & mock.

6. **ANOTHER THING IS WHEN PEOPLE LET OFF GAS,** which is a very embarrassing thing to a lot of children, & because their companions are embarrassed too, usually they just roar hilariously & make fun of the person that had the problem, but everybody has to let off gas sometimes!

7. **SOME PROBLEMS ARE PERMANENT,** like poor teeth or poor eyes necessitating thick glasses, or height, or birthmarks, & some are temporary hindrances like pimples, eye-twitching, stammering, etc., but all need to be treated lovingly & wisely.

8. **NORMALLY CHILDREN, AND PEOPLE IN GENERAL, ARE JUST THOUGHTLESS IN THEIR HURTFUL OR EMBARRASSING REMARKS.** Adults do it a lot to their children, like, "Oh, you look so funny since you lost your baby teeth!" or "Oh, my!—You've got a horrible-looking pimple on your chin!" The parent or the adult can be doing it only as a matter of observation & not trying to actually hurt anyone at all, but such comments are very embarrassing & discouraging & can put a poor child in the depths of despair! How can we expect the children to do & say what's right if the adults don't even set the right example?

9. **ALSO MIMICKING OF MISPRONUNCIATIONS OF YOUNGER BROTHERS & SISTERS SHOULD BE REFRAINED FROM,** even though an adult or an older child does it because he or she thinks it's cute.—Number one, it reinforces the wrong pronunciation, & number two, even the younger children get to a certain age where they know they're not pronouncing things right & can be embarrassed & feel they're being made fun of, & even grow up with a complex because of it. Likewise, if they have a lisp.

10. **ANOTHER THING IS WHEN GIRLS HAVE THEIR**

PERIOD & SOMEBODY POINTS OUT IN FRONT OF OTHERS, "Oh, look, you've got a stain on your dress." It'd be much better to take the little girl aside & tell her privately, "Oh, there's a little stain on your dress. Come in the bathroom & I'll help you wash it off", Instead of saying it in front of people. That's a little bit different story & is a time when you need to point it out to the girl, but not in front of other people. Especially adults sometimes need to point some things out to a child or teen, but they've got to be careful they don't do it in front of others so they won't draw attention to him & embarrass him, & they've got to be prayerful in how they say it!

11. THERE ARE NUMEROUS EXAMPLES THAT WE COULD USE & WHICH WOULD MAKE A GOOD CLASS FOR THE CHILDREN. Maybe it would be good to have the children themselves make a list of other examples. At teen Pow-Wows, you could even have them bring out different examples of how adults or others have embarrassed them, & I'll bet they might be real eye-opening. Everyone is guilty, adults have done it to children, & children have done it to adults, & children with children, adults with adults.

12. SO TO CALL ATTENTION TO THESE PROBLEMS REALLY MAKES THE POOR YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL BAD. They feel inferior enough & have enough problems without people calling attention to them, so we need to teach the children & adults alike that they should not call attention to these things, but "Love covers with a veil of silence the mistakes (also Imperfections) of others", "Love loves the unlovely", & most of us have some little physical things we maybe don't like about ourselves & surely wouldn't want anyone to ridicule & embarrass us about.

13. IT SEEMS AS THOUGH IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS HOW OUR THOUGHTLESS COMMENTS CAN REALLY HURT OTHERS, but we all need constant reminders, & our children need counsel & classes & Pow-Wows on the subject.

"The end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, & watch unto prayer. And above all things have fervent love: for love shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging." (1Pet.4:7-9)

14. YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HOW THE CHILDREN HAVE A PROBLEM ALONG THAT LINE IF EVEN SOME ADULTS ARE SO THOUGHTLESS, evidenced, for example, by the fact that some even make their teens the brunt of jokes. How can we

expect the children to learn & to behave themselves & do what they should if the adults even have a problem of teasing or making fun of & embarrassing others? Just one little comment, just one thoughtless remark can loom very large to a child that's already embarrassed about something. Every little remark can add up & do damage, & grow way out of proportion to the significance of the remark itself. But that's how the sensitive children take these remarks, as they already often feel bad & inferior, so they build it up into something really big when it wasn't even meant that way sometimes. You can even be saying something about somebody else & yet another party you're not even talking about can take it very personally & be hurt by it, imagining that you must be talking about them.

15. OUR FAMILY YOUNG PEOPLE DEFINITELY DO A LOT BETTER THAN SYSTEM KIDS, & AT LEAST TRY MORE, but these things have definitely got to be pointed out to them & taught to them as a part of love. If they really want to love & if they really love each other, one of the most important ways they can show it is by kindness & consideration.

16. SOMETIMES NOT DOING OR SAYING ANYTHING IS AN IMPORTANT WAY OF SHOWING LOVE. It's not always doing something to show your love, like loaning somebody your book or helping them find their watch or bringing them their dinner, or whatever. A lot of times it's the thing that's not said or not done & ignoring something purposely when it's better not to draw attention & comment about it that shows real love.

17. WE SHOULD TEACH CHILDREN TO TREAT OTHERS AS THEY WOULD LIKE OTHERS TO TREAT THEM SHOULD THEY HAVE THAT PROBLEM OR BE IN AN EMBARRASSING SITUATION. It's ignoring or overlooking things or not saying them that is almost more important for children than all the things that they can do. For children, I think there are almost more things that they should not do in order to show love & consideration, than loving deeds that they should do. If they actually are taught kindness & consideration with the Word & discussion, they will learn so many ways to overlook people's faults & problems & how not to tease or embarrass others. I bet during the course of a day, the children are hurt a lot more by what they say to each other than anything else. Children don't expect other children to go out of their way to do loving deeds for them so much, but the things that really hurt them are each other's careless unkind words.

"Words are real things! They bless or they curse, they lift up or they knock down, they save or they damn!"

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." (Eph.4:29)

18. BROTHERS & SISTERS NOT GETTING ALONG WELL TOGETHER IS A COMMON PROBLEM, & THE MAIN WAY THEY MANIFEST THEIR DIFFERENCES IS WITH WORDS.—In belittling & criticising & knocking each other down with words & actions. An older child can look down on the younger ones & make them feel "dumb" or not as competent as they, the older ones, are. God's Word is very clear, & our children should all strive to learn this lesson, that

"Be ye kind one to another, tender hearted...And let us consider one another to provoke unto love & to good works. See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently. Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous." (Eph.4:32; Heb.10:24; 1Pet.1:22, 3:8)


Preparing for Adolescence

(EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK BY
JAMES DOBSON)

The courage to lead

Most teenagers respect a guy or girl who has the courage to be his own person, even when being mocked and teased. An individual with this kind of confidence often becomes a leader. He has shown that he doesn't feel as inferior as the other followers. He's not made of putty inside. Instead, he has the guts to stand up for what he knows is right.

A boy named Jeep Fenders

I was not always sensitive to the feelings of children who couldn't be like their peers. In fact, I had to learn to be kind to others during childhood. When I was nine years old, I attended a Sunday school class every week. One Sunday a new boy named Fred visited our class. I didn't stop to think that Fred might be uncomfortable as a stranger in our group, because I knew everyone and had many friends there. He sat quietly looking down at the floor. During the morning class I noticed that Fred had very strange ears. They were shaped in a kind of half-circle, like this: . I remember thinking how much they looked like Jeep fenders. Have you ever seen the fenders on a Jeep, which go up and over the tyres? Somehow I managed to see a resemblance to Fred's ears.

Then I did a very unkind thing. I told everyone that Fred had 'Jeep-fender ears', and my friends thought that that was terribly funny. They all laughed and began

"If you can't love your brother or sister, your leaders, or your parents whom ye have seen, how are you going to love God or His heathen children whom ye have not seen?" (MOP: "Love One Another") (1John 4:20,21) Many a System family has been ruined by contentions & rivalry between brothers & sisters, & our children should be made aware of the bad results of such problems.

19. OUR CHILDREN HERE ARE PRETTY GOOD ALONG THAT LINE, so some of these problems rarely come up, but I'm glad I overheard her & this minor situation came out as a lesson to all. Techl wasn't doing it to be hurtful at all, she just didn't realise that her drawing attention to David's pimples would hurt or embarrass him.

20. SO, LET'S CONCENTRATE WITH OUR CHILDREN FOR AWHILE ON HOW WE CAN SHOW OUR LOVE FOR OTHERS BY WHAT WE DO NOT DO OR SAY.

calling him 'Jeep Fenders'. Fred seemed to be accepting the joke pretty well. He sat with a little smile on his face (because he didn't know what to say), but it was hurting him deeply. Suddenly Fred stopped smiling. He exploded from his chair and hurried towards the door, crying. Then he ran out of the building and never came back to our church. I don't blame him. The way we acted was vicious, and I'm sure God was very displeased, with me especially.

However, the important thing to understand was how ignorant I was of Fred's feelings on that day. Believe it or not, I didn't really intend to hurt him. I had no idea that my joke made him feel terrible, and I was shocked when he ran from the classroom. I remember thinking about what I had done after he left, wishing I hadn't been so mean.

Why was I so cruel to Fred? It was because no one had ever told me that other people were as sensitive about being teased as I was. I thought I was the only one who didn't like to be laughed at. The teachers of my many Sunday school classes should have taught me to respect and protect the feelings of others. They should have helped me to be more Christlike.

Feeling Inferior

Researchers identified the girls in college who were the most beautiful and those who were less attractive. Then they studied them for twenty-five years to see what happened in their marriages and later lives. Believe it or not, those who were less attractive tended to be more happily married twenty-five years later. So it's really wrong for everybody to feel like they have to be physically perfect. If people were hon-