Remember as a kid, making the calculation of which parent to approach on a given matter based on their likely response? It may have seemed like a great option at the time, but the scenario is one of conflicting authority and often leads to rebellion. Whether you experienced this as a child or not, it’s certainly not a healthy environment in which to raise your children.

“If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.”
(Jesus speaking, Mark 3:25)

Achieving Unity at Home

Children crave stability, and unity, in the home. Since a husband and wife are two different people from two different backgrounds, parental unity doesn’t just happen, it requires a conscious effort. Below are some ideas that may help you in that effort.

1. **Discuss rules and discipline together.** Civilization cannot function without a set of morals and code of conduct that are agreed to by the society at large, with appropriate consequences for violating said codes. For example, most people can walk down most streets in the country without fear of being mugged because our society has agreed that stealing is wrong, and we’ve instituted appropriate penalties for those who violate that standard. In the home, parents set the code of conduct, and inform the children of the consequences of violating the code. These decisions must be communicated up front and administered consistently to be of any value.

2. **Don’t contradict one another in front of the children.** When parents contradict one another, it is extremely destabilizing to the family. If there is something your spouse said or did that you disagree with, approach them about it in a private moment. Unless their action will result in immediate danger, it can wait.

3. **Make sure your children know that you ALWAYS back up your spouse.** If your child comes to you with something because they didn’t like the response they got from your spouse, always go with your spouse’s original decision. An obvious exception would be if that decision would cause your child to sin or cause them harm. In that case, confer with your spouse, and then together present the reversal as a unified front.

**The Perfect Valentines Date!**

Feb 12 – 14, 2016: Family Life Weekend to Remember, Hershey PA
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Need help? Contact Marriage & Family Pastor, Bill Reinke, at BillR@FCFchurch.com.