

The Weekly Skillet

Serving Up New Choices For Your Life!

Volume 1
Issue 23

August 7, 2002

The Main Course



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Parenting

The process of parenting is a natural one. It is a process designed to provide love for a child by giving attention, showing respect, and communicating appreciation. Parenting is also designed to teach a child who and what they are.

Each person has six behavioral characteristics that become part of their self-identity. Three of these characteristics are referred to as masculine and three as feminine.

Masculine:
provide, protect, compete

Feminine:
creativity, compassion, support

Boys have an outer masculine process and an inner feminine process. Girls have an outer feminine process and an inner masculine process.

The parenting role is to teach and allow a child to experience and feel achievement within all six characteristics.

If any of the child's masculine or feminine characteristics are denied or put down by the parent, the child may feel incomplete and begin to desperately seek the missing characteristics.

When the child becomes an adult, they will do this by seeking a mate that will be an EXTERNAL expression of his or her missing INTERNAL process. A common expression used in referring to a spouse is "My other half" or "My better half." **This can be the basis for co-dependency.**

BOYS

A boy must receive teaching from the father. He must have the opportunity to feel accomplishment and to receive approval from the father. He is then "certified" as a man. A boy must also receive unconditional love and acceptance from the mother in order to acknowledge and validate his inner feminine side.

GIRLS

A girl must receive teaching from the mother. She must have the opportunity to feel accomplishment and to receive approval from the mother. She is then "certified" as a woman. A girl must also receive unconditional love and acceptance from the father in order to acknowledge and validate her inner masculine side.

Parenting is intended to assist the integration of all six characteristics.

When this is accomplished, a person has:

- The ability to provide for oneself using creativity. He/she will be flexible.
- The ability to protect oneself, balanced with compassion. He/she will be caring within appropriate boundaries.
- The ability to be competitive, tempered with support. He/she will be interdependent.

The integration and blending of the masculine and feminine processes allow the child to learn how to make decisions and experience the fulfillment of the basic needs for self-identity, love, usefulness, freedom, and survival.

(From Passage to Adulthood)

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