



Playing to Your Strengths and Crashing the Chatter

Question #1:

WHAT DO I DO IF THE CHATTER COMES FROM SOMEONE CLOSE TO ME?

Romans 12:2(TMSG) 2Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Question #2: HOW DO I TEACH MY KIDS TO CRASH THE CHATTERBOX?

What Not to Say to Your Children:

1. Leave Me Alone—Parents need breaks, but we must not brush our kids off. This tells the kids not to talk to you.
2. Don't Cry—Or, don't be a baby, or, there's NO reason to be afraid. Shutting down our children's emotions do NOT help them to deal with the chatter later in life. We do NOT want to tell our children that their emotions are NOT valid, but we want to teach them how to deal with their emotions according to the Word of God. How to handle their fears and insecurities instead of telling them "DON'T".
3. Why Can't You Be More Like Your Sister—Comparison's most always backfire. It's wonderful to have shining examples, but our children will never be totally like somebody else. A better option would be to encourage their achievements.
4. Stop Or I'll Give You Something To Cry About—The problem is that sooner or later you must make good on your threat or you're a liar. Though discipline is warranted and needed, small children need to be redirected in their activities.
5. Wait Till Daddy Gets Home—You just told your child that you're NOT in authority and you cannot handle the situation.
6. Hurry Up!—Usually when I say that, things slow down. This statement usually gets people's nerves on edge and then things go south from there. It's better to help things along and help people plan ahead better.

7. Great Job!—What could be wrong with that statement? Tossing out a generic statement over and over again without being specific will cause that statement to become meaningless. You may want to praise the behavior instead of the person. Though a thank you is often good, be sure that it's accomplishing the right thing. For instance, I'm so thankful that you glorify God when you help caring for a single mom. If somebody shows thanks to me in a way that takes glory away from God, that thanks may NOT have ultimately did me any good. We honor people and glorify God.

Proverbs 4:23(TMSG) 23Keep vigilant watch over your heart; *that's* where life starts.

Question #3:

HOW DO I DEAL WITH THE CHATTERBOX WHEN IT COMES OUT OF NOWHERE?

Question #4:

WHAT DO I DO WHEN THE CHATTERBOX MAKES ME FEEL GUILTY NO MATTER WHAT I DECIDE TO DO?

Romans 4:17-18(TMSG) 17We call Abraham “father” not because he got God’s attention by living like a saint, but because God made something out of Abraham when he was a nobody. Isn’t that what we’ve always read in Scripture, God saying to Abraham, “I set you up as father of many peoples”? Abraham was first named “father” and then *became* a father because he dared to trust God to do what only God could do: raise the dead to life, with a word make something out of nothing. 18When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he *couldn't* do but on what God said he *would* do. And so he was made father of a multitude of peoples. God himself said to him, “You’re going to have a big family, Abraham!”

Philippians 4:8-9(TMSG) 8Summing it all up, friends, I’d say you’ll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. 9Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.