



Draw Closer to God to Avoid Arguments

By Rick Warren

I have made an amazing discovery: The more time I spend alone with God, the better I get along with other people.

When the argument level rises in your marriage, it means somebody is not spending time with the Lord. It's that simple.

You must grow closer to God if you want to avoid arguments.

Isaiah 26:3 says, "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!" When you spend time with the Lord, you turn your thoughts to Him. Then, you get along better with others because He keeps perfect peace in your heart, and you're not as irritable.

Have you noticed some people only draw close to God when they're in trouble? They only pray when they have a need.

You need to spend time with God. Bible study, Sunday morning, daily quiet time ... make time for these things.

Think you're too busy? Then maybe you are. Maybe you need to cut some things out of your schedule to make more time to spend with the Lord.

Get up 15 minutes earlier each morning. Read and pray, and then notice the difference in your attitude and relationships the rest of the day.

The more you spend time with God, the more you will enjoy the rest of your time. It will be more productive and more beneficial. You'll get along better with others and have fewer arguments because you're drawing closer to God.

The conflict in your life is in inverse proportion to the time you're spending with God.

There is a great promise in James 4:8: "Come near to God and He will come near to you" (NIV). He doesn't back off. He draws close to you. When you move toward him, God moves toward you.

To avoid arguments, you have to give in to God, get wise to Satan, and draw close to God.



Ten Ways Fathers Model Healthy Relationships for Their Children

By Steven Stosny

Research shows consistently what children know intuitively: Fathers are important.

Children learn how men should behave in relationships by watching their fathers. Even if he does not live with their mother, they are keenly aware of the way he interacts with her.

Most divorce and domestic violence happens to men and women who grew up without a father who was modeling healthy relationship behavior.

Here are 10 tips to help fathers model behavior for the way they want their daughter to be treated in her adult relationships and also the way they want their son to treat the woman he loves.

- 1. Value their mother:** Children value themselves and others more when they feel that their mother and father value one another.
- 2. Perspective-taking:** (seeing things through someone else's eyes): Show your children the importance of respecting the perspectives of people they love, even when they disagree with them.
- 3. Cooperation:** Show how to participate willingly in work, problem-solving, or task-accomplishment.
- 4. Negotiation:** Show your children how to work out solutions to problems that respect one another's perspectives.
- 5. Motivation to improve:** Approach everything, including disagreements, with the attitude of making things better, not worse.
- 6. Compassion for wife/mother:** His gut-level reaction to their mother's pain, discomfort, or anxiety includes sympathy, protectiveness, and willingness to help but not control. It recognizes that their mother is different from him, with her own temperament, set of experiences, beliefs, values, and preferences.
- 7. Good will:** Learning a positive attitude toward the people they love will greatly improve your children's chances of having good relationships as adults.
- 8. Affection:** Showing affection toward their mother makes children feel more secure.
- 9. Relationship investment:** Successful relationships require that people care about - do good things for - one another.
- 10. Protection:** Loved ones support and protect one another.

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<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/anger-in-the-age-entitlement>

Parenting Tip

How To Get Out The Door On Time With Children – 4 Practical Approaches

By Carol Tuttle

Author of **The Child Whisperer**. (If you don't yet know which dominant Energy Type your child expresses, read **The Child Whisperer** and experience more ease and cooperation in your family.)

Getting out the door is just trickier with children.

Fortunately, as your children become more responsible for themselves, you can use these handy Child Whisperer tricks to make it out the door more quickly and easily.

Out the door with the Fun-loving Type 1 Child

If you have plans in advance, give this child buffer time for randomness while getting ready. A few extra minutes to play along the way means they're happier and you're less stressed.

If you ever need to leave at the last minute, make wherever you're going sound new and fun. Mention new people you'll meet or things you'll see.

If this child says, "No," give them a second and they may change their mind.

(Bonus tip: Be selective about events that matter for this child to be on time. For example, punctuality might be important for a lesson, but less so for an open-house party.)

Out the door with the Sensitive Type 2 Child

Even though these children express a slower, more methodical movement, they're likely to get out the door on time—if given the chance to plan.

Give them advance notice. Ask what support they need from you to plan their outfit or what they'll bring along.

These children need time to adjust to last-minute plans. Take the extra moment to let them process and express frustration. It will actually get you out the door faster than telling them to just go.

(Bonus tip: Telling these children to hurry up actually slows them down. Give them details instead. For example, "Your friend expects us there at 5. It takes 10 minutes to drive there. That means we need to be in the car in 3 minutes.")

Out the door with the Determined Type 3 Child

Results, results, results. For planned activities or routine

appointments, share the end result to be achieved. For example, "The bus comes at 7:30 and we want to beat it before it gets there every morning."

These kids move quickly, so last-minute trips out the door are easy. Challenge them to get their shoes on and get out to the car in under a minute and see them move into action!

(Bonus tip: These children can be overly confident about what they can accomplish before a deadline. If you're running late, speak directly about what you need them to do.)

Out the door with the More Serious Type 4 Child

Tell this child well ahead of time. Give them a big-picture view of where they need to be and when. They will appreciate being given age-appropriate autonomy for getting themselves ready.

These children have a hard time breaking away abruptly from whatever they're focusing on. For last-minute trips, explain logically why plans have changed, give them a few-minute warning, and be open to their input. If they are old enough, give them the choice about whether or not to go.

(Bonus tip: Frantic energy slows these children down. If you're in a hurry, speaking calmly and logically to these children will help them move forward better than rushing them.)

Getting where you're going

Release the stress of getting out the door and allow yourself to experience the process.

Honor your children's unique needs and they will respond with joy.

Carol Tuttle is the author of **The Child Whisperer**, *The Ultimate Handbook for Raising Happy, Successful, and Cooperative Children*, an Amazon Bestseller.

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