

## Lesson 4 – Understanding Your Relationship

Performance-based relationships tend to be conditional and convey or withhold love based on performance.

We all long to be loved unconditionally.

“Performance-oriented” means I long for good things for you.

“Performance-oriented” means not tying your love to performance.

Your home needs to be a place of refuge and refreshment, not ridicule.

There’s much more to education than academics.

Help your kids be real.

Teenage fads pass soon enough.

In the bigger scheme of things, outward appearances don’t matter.

How you respond to their friends is how they will later respond to you if they become like their friends.

Rules set the standards.... But to be effective they must be attainable.

“Grace” is giving them something they don’t deserve.

Rules without a relationship causes rebellion.

“Mercy” is not getting something you do deserve.

If you expect too much you’ll have disappointment, discouragement, despair, and despondency from your child.

If you expect too little.... You’ll have a child that is frustrated and feels like a failure.

Communicate unconditional love.

## Discussion Questions

### Areas of Performance-based parenting

- academic or educational pursuits
- dress or appearance
- people, friends, peers
- participation in sports or other school activities
- religious activities
- participation in family vacations and events
- not allowing them to make any mistakes
- attitudes and ideas different than yours

### 1. Performance-Based vs. Performance-Oriented

- a. Does your child try to measure up to expectations you now realize are not part of who he really is? What will you do about it this week?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. List some ideas you can talk about with your child instead of focusing on your standards, or what you expect of him/her.

### 2. When your child fails

- a. Describe your behaviour toward your child the last time he/she made a bad decision or poor choice.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. What area of grace does your child need from you this week? What truth does your child need to hear from you this week?

Scripture References: Gen 1:27; Gen 5:1; Gen 3:16-19; Gen 3:21; Col 3:12-13