

FAMILY SECRETS
Tuesday, January 02, 2007
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Genesis 25:26

And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.

Genesis 25:28

And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Genesis 27:41

And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.

As parents you must know your assignment as it relates to rearing children. You are to love them while possessing the ability to distinguish their unique characteristics, personalities, and callings. Don't force your child to fit into the individual mold of their siblings. Discern their strengths and weaknesses on an individual basis so that they each have the ability to fit comfortably within the family structure as a whole.

THE DANGER OF PARENTS FAVORING ONE CHILD OVER THE OTHER:

1. It breeds insecurities in the "less favored" child.
2. It causes secret upheavals to brew within the family structure.
3. It breeds manipulation within the children and the marriage.
4. It causes resentment against the parents.
5. The parents are often forced to pay a significant price.

IDENTIFYING FAVORITISM:

1. When one child gets your attention more readily than the other.
2. When two (or more) of the children all act out the same offense, but one of the children always seems to escape punishment for his or her misbehavior.
3. Constantly talking to family and friends more favorably about one child over the other.

STEPS TO STOP OR HEAL FAVORITISM:

1. Don't constantly have secret meetings with one child.
2. Rebuke and correct children in a corporate setting amongst the other siblings.

3. Where favoritism exists, conceal it. Don't make statements like, "This is the smart one out of the group..." or "This one is the nuisance of the family."
4. Let children know that you love them through your words and your deeds.

**HOW TO BECOME ONE IN A MARRIAGE WITHOUT SACRIFICING
YOUR INDIVIDUALITY**

1. Know what you want before the marriage and make it plain to the other party.
2. Know what the other party wants in the marriage, and be honest in the beginning as to whether or not you're going to be able to give it to him or her.
3. Have your own goals and aspirations and strive to achieve them.
4. Don't feel as if the two of you always have to agree on everything.
5. Understand the difference between self-sacrifices and losing yourself in the marriage.
6. Develop the type of relationship with your partner in private that allows the two of you to be brutally honest with each other regarding controversial issues.
7. Learn the importance of living life instead of allowing life to live you...and enjoy living life together.
8. Take time to evaluate yourself, and make room in the marriage and in yourself for future growth.