

When we get involved enough with another person to create a child, we are impacted the rest of our lives by their actions and in-actions, be it friendly or hostile, consistent or inconsistent.

A significant dilemma can arise when the other parent is not healthy enough emotionally, for whatever the reason, to see their child's needs from a balanced, informed and adult perspective.

When we see beyond the immediate "likes" of our child and our own "likes" as well, it can open us to a vision that includes their ultimate healthy emotional development.

They then have a chance to gain the perspectives and the tools to pursue a productive and rewarding adult life. In the process of offering this guidance to them, we grow ourselves in the same ways. If we are transparent enough, they can see us model the process we wish for them as well.

How do we stay the course when we are pressured and challenged to give up our best thought and wisest choices for the "likes" of the child and or other parent (who does not share our vision)? It can be very, very hard to do so. So hard, is part of the game. To bolster our efforts we can seek friends of like mind, counselors who promote our own well being and balance, family members who "get it" and perhaps prayer as well.

Most of all, if we are at nature prone to "please" others, it is a new skill to make a "decision" and make it truly non-negotiable. Doing so does not "please" everyone, so we seem to be in conflict with our own nature. We do not "like" this position.

The clarity of the vision we hold and believing we are on course may be the strength we need to follow through. When we do prevail, no matter the outcome, we know in our soul we made our best effort to guide the most important young person in our world. If we are successful we will have changed the course of their life and those of their own children as well, in a most positive way.

Be tough, be determined, get healthy help and honor your own intelligence and heart. You are a groundbreaker, expect some bruises, it is so worth it. You may well be more alone in this than ever imagined but you are up for it and your child is worth it. Let's get it done.