

Parenting 101

I have watched an amazing thing happen over the past week. As you know, I have been raising my children alone since their mother passed away last November. My sister has really stepped in and loved on them as much as her own responsibilities would allow, but for the most part, they have known they have no mommy. As you also probably know, I am engaged to be married to a wonderful woman of God named Marty. Marty has had to be finishing up some school in San Marcos and just this last week finally got to move here to Denton. Her and the kids, Madison 1 and Dane 3, have spent time together over the past few months, but not with any real consistency. This last week and from now on, Marty has been able to be here in our home all day everyday with the kids. They have seen us together as a couple, holding hands, giving hugs and seeing the love between us. We also started a while back introducing the concept of Marty being their new mom and calling her Marty-mom or even just mom.

In counseling, I had always heard what a difference the "mom AND dad" concept makes for children but I never really understood it until now. My children have changed in drastic ways. They sleep better at night. They eat better. They are more joyful, peaceful, calm and just all around more comfortable. Not in just subtle way either, these are huge changes. I am convinced that it is because they are seeing a healthy mom-dad relationship that will only get better after we get married.

I see stages of healthiness in kids depending on the parents. One, that there is a mom and dad in the home. Two, not just mom and dad in the home but mom and dad loving each other in the home. Three, not just loving each other in the home, but loving their children and instructing them in the ways of the Lord in the home. I feel that the more you, as parents, are able to meet these needs, the better the chance that you will have of raising godly, well adjusted children. Kids will draw their security from what they see in their parents and they will often view God the

way they view you.

What a sweet blessing God has given us to in raising our children. How great the responsibility, how great the joy. Hang in there and love on your honey and those kids.