



## iQuestions Faculty, Dr. Kevin Leman

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### Question:

*My wife and I disagree about how to discipline our children. What should we do?*

### Answer:

If there's one thing a parent has to do it's they've got to be on the same page with each other. I mean, I'm telling you. We have seen the enemy. And they are small, and they are going to circle the wagons. They're going to destroy you as a parent, as a family, if you're not together on discipline.

What happens is; you're competitive in your marriage. It's really a marriage problem more than it is a kid problem. To tell you the truth, kids are going to react to the differences between you. What usually happens is; you've got one parent who is too authoritarian. They're too bossy. They're too strong-willed themselves and they sort of hover over their kids. Well, to balance that out, the other spouse decides that he or she is going to turn into the permissive Disneyland Mom or Dad of the Year. Not a good idea. The kids are going to respond in a negative way to that kind of a home.

Whether you know it or not, you (mom and dad), are the foundation for your kids. And your kids are depending upon you to be on the same page. And when you're not on the same page, guess what the kids do? They misbehave. They react to you not being together. Kids not only want us to be together, they need us to be together.



When we give a united front to kids, guess what? They draw security from that. Do you want a kid who feels secure about himself? Then make sure you're on the same page.

You know, we're all going to have differences. I always say men are strange and women are weird. And we do see life completely different. And there are times when you have got to get behind closed doors and knock out those differences and come to a resolution; that you know as parents, it's really important that we agree on some things.

So, that means you might negotiate some things. You might compromise some things. But you work toward being on the same page. Why? Because it's not only good for your kids, it's great for your kids. If your kids grow up in a home where mom and dad are on the same page, guess what? They're going to thrive in that environment.

And if they don't grow up in that kind environment? They're going to fight the environment; tooth and nail. You're going to create a powerful little buzzard who is going to drive you up the proverbial wall.