

***BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR  
LUTHERAN SCHOOL  
PRESENTS:  
PEARLS OF LOVE AND LOGIC***

***Special Thoughts on Raising Kids***

**Room to Grow**

One of the more glaring problems faced by teenagers in today's world occurs when their parents become determined to control every aspect of their lives.

This control can be seen as a symptom of a larger problem that actually belongs to the parent. It is a problem that many of us face. We feel insecure when we have little control over others, especially our children.

Since we never like to admit to ourselves that we are insecure, we build a case for being concerned about the youngster's well-being at an unconscious level. This is a very natural thing to do.

As we state our case, it comes out as, "I need to control my youngster's actions, or he will do something that will be bad for him, and my love for him just won't allow me to do otherwise."

The way we identify insecurity is by watching the amount of control a person needs to have over others. This is seen daily as parents attempt to control sleeping and eating habits, the amount of learning that takes place, the language used by the child, how he or she is treated by others, the kind of clothes he or she wears, and who his or her friends are.

We don't hear a person say, "Well, actually, I'm a very controlling person because I feel like an inadequate parent when my child makes decisions for himself and chooses to be something different than what I have designed for him. " Our minds work for us as a protection from these kinds of thoughts.

Instead we hear, "I care about my children. I can't let them hurt themselves by making bad choices." Or, "I just don't want my children to close any doors for themselves that will limit their opportunities later in life."

In other words, controlling people unconsciously disguise their attempts to feel more adequate by saying that they are caring, concerned, involved, and so on.

The question is, "Do I feel secure enough to allow my child to become what he or she wants to be?"

***CONTROL***

***Helps parents satisfy unconscious needs to feel more adequate as adults.***

***DEMANDS TO GET YOUR WAY***

***Help youngsters learn to be stubborn and demand to get their way.***

***CHOICES***

***Help children learn to become decision makers and learn to become adults in the real world.***