

PARENTING...what did I get myself into?

Is being a parent more difficult than you expected? Do you find yourself confused as to what to say or do next? Did you expect that being bigger, older and wiser that you would have control over the children? Then welcome to the club.

We parents now have the idea that our children should like us. Some parents have said to me "I want to be their best friend." Can't happen. Friends are usually about the same age. Children need leaders, decision makers in their lives. They need someone to make them feel safe, and a friend just can't do that. Parents and children become friends when the children are grown and responsible for themselves, not before.

Being a parent means you will have to make unpopular decisions. Children have an inborn sense of entitlement, i.e., I should have what I want when I want it. Any time you interfere with a child's sense of entitlement you will be unpopular with the child. They must learn this belief is false. Better to learn it from their caring parents than a much less caring world.