

I. Defining expectations

II. Listing some

A. For your children

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

B. For your family

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

C. For you

- 1.
- 2.

III. Evaluating them

A. *Problem Number One*: James 4:13-17

B. *Problem Number Two*: Deuteronomy 13:4

IV. Responses from:

A. the cynic:

B. the idealist:

C. the realist:

1.

2.

3.

4. Philippians 2:12

V. The Practical Application – Raising Children Realistically

A. Defining the “real” world

1. The viewpoint from the Scriptures

2. “It is easy in the world to live after the world’s opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude.” R.W. Emerson

B. Reality concerning your children

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

C. Reality for your family

1.

2.

3.

D. Reality for you

1. You will not survive as a mom if you create an environment in which your children are completely dependent upon you for everything.

a.

b.

c.

2 Your mental health and theirs are intrinsically related

3. The balancing act

a. Philippians 2:5-7

b. "If it is women's function to give, she must be replenished too."  
Anne Morrow Lindbergh

c. *The Atlantic Monthly* article

Four valuable resources every mom should have:

1.

2.

3.

4.

VI. Conclusion: Embrace the truth of the Scriptures; embrace reality. Do the hard work required to implement this advice, but do it in God's strength.