

Our Heavenly Father

Romans 8: 14-16; Hebrews 12: 4-11

Fathers – are they dispensable?

- Definitely not!

The difference good fathers make

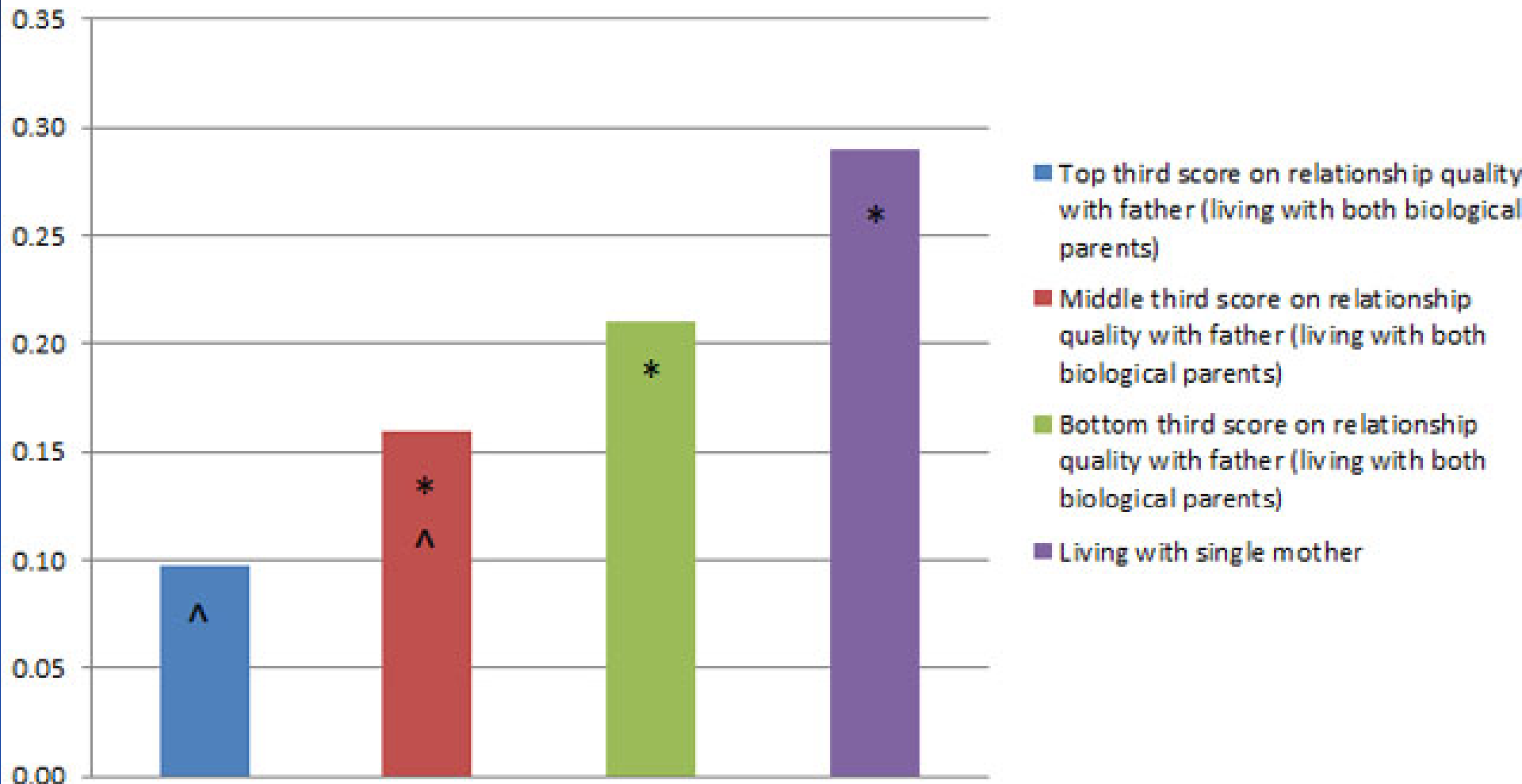
- Teenage pregnancy (daughters)
 - Delinquency (sons)
 - Depression (both sons & daughters)
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- W. Bradford Wilcox, *The Distinct Positive Impact of a Good Dad*; The Atlantic; June 14, 2013

Adolescents divided into 4 categories

- intact family, high-quality relationship with father
top 3rd (blue)
- intact family, average-quality relationship with father
middle 3rd (red)
- intact family, low-quality relationship with father
bottom 3rd (green)
- single-mother family (purple)

Proportion of Girls Who Got Pregnant as Teens

Source: Add Health (N=5,876)



blue: ~10%

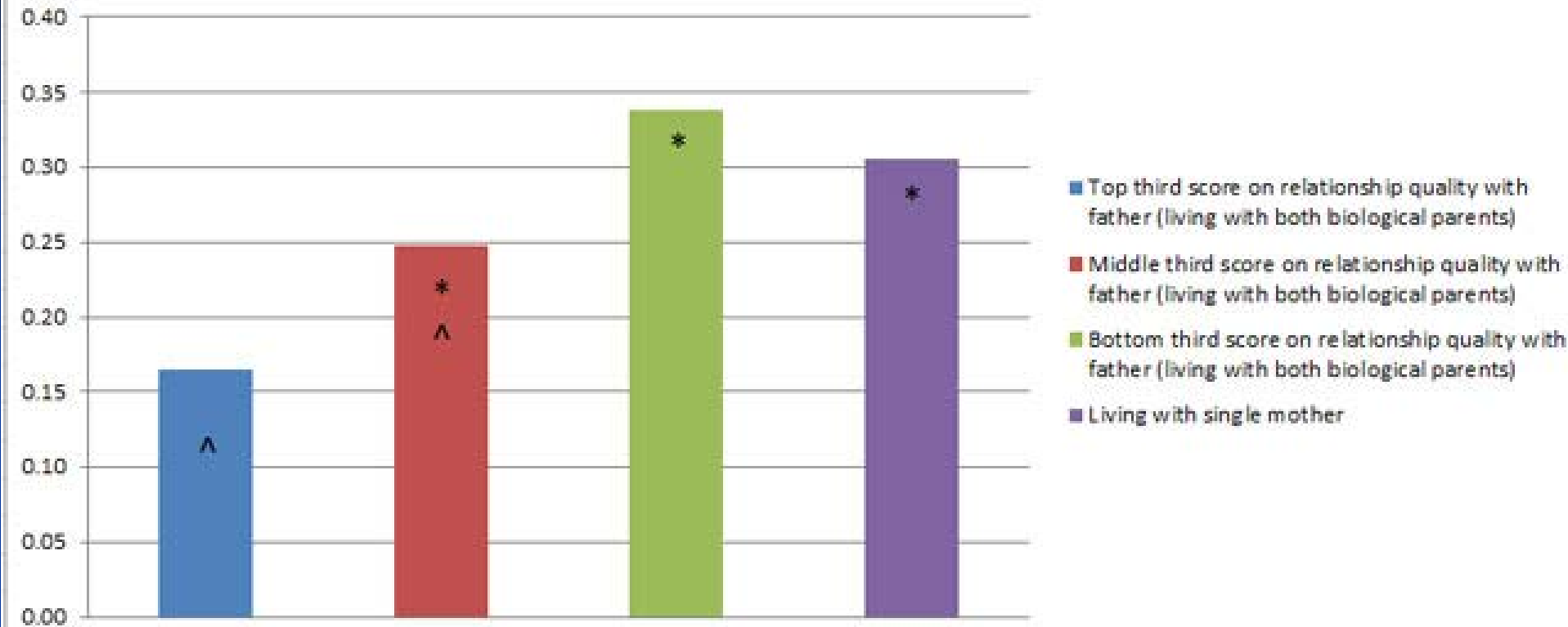
green: ~21%

red: ~16%

purple: ~29% (single mom)

Proportion of Teen Boys in Top Quartile for Delinquency

Source: Add Health (N=6,979)



blue: ~16%

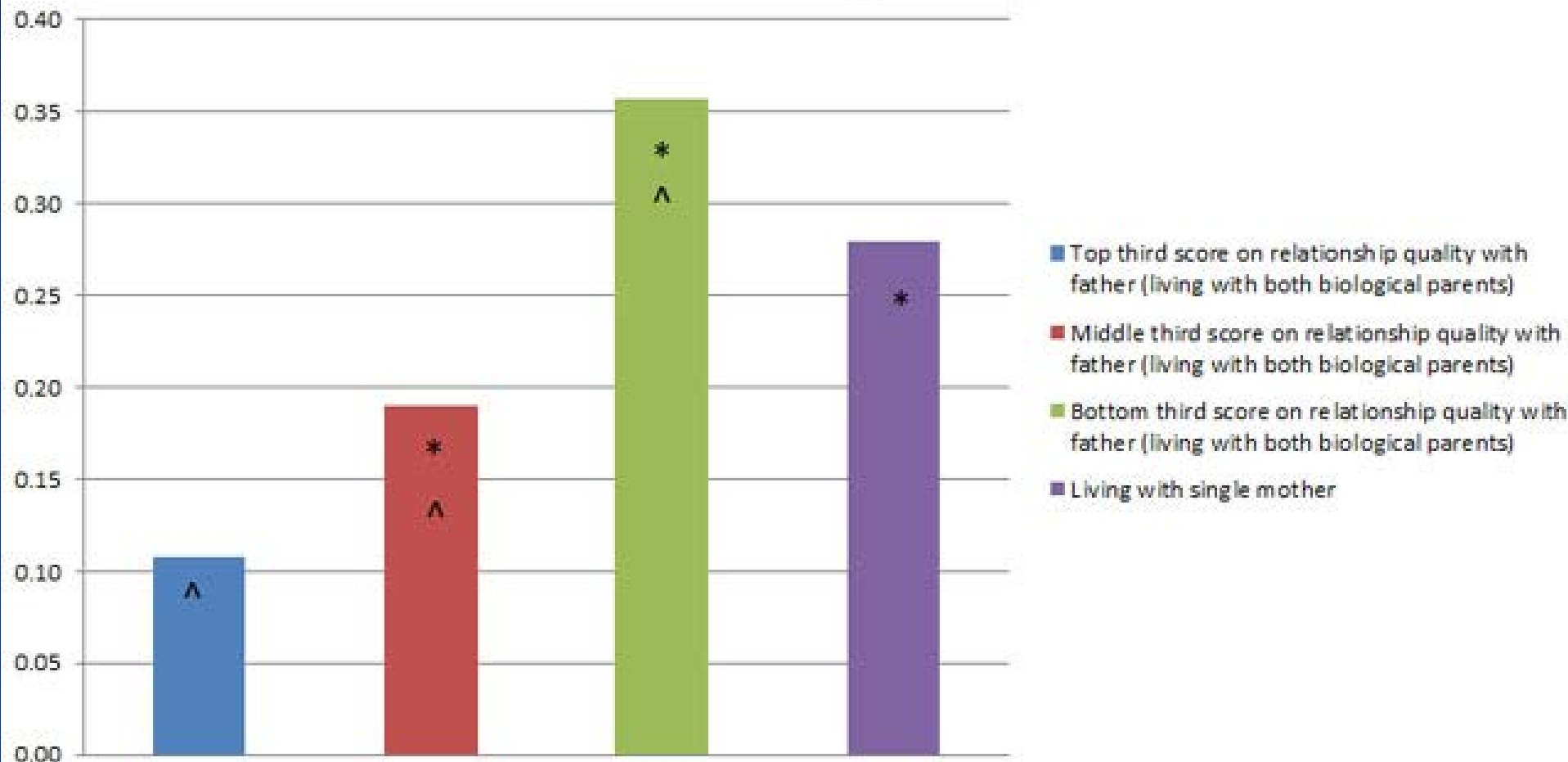
green: ~34%

red: ~25%

purple: ~30%

Proportion of Teens in the Top Quartile for Depression

Source: Add Health (N=14,363)



blue: ~10%

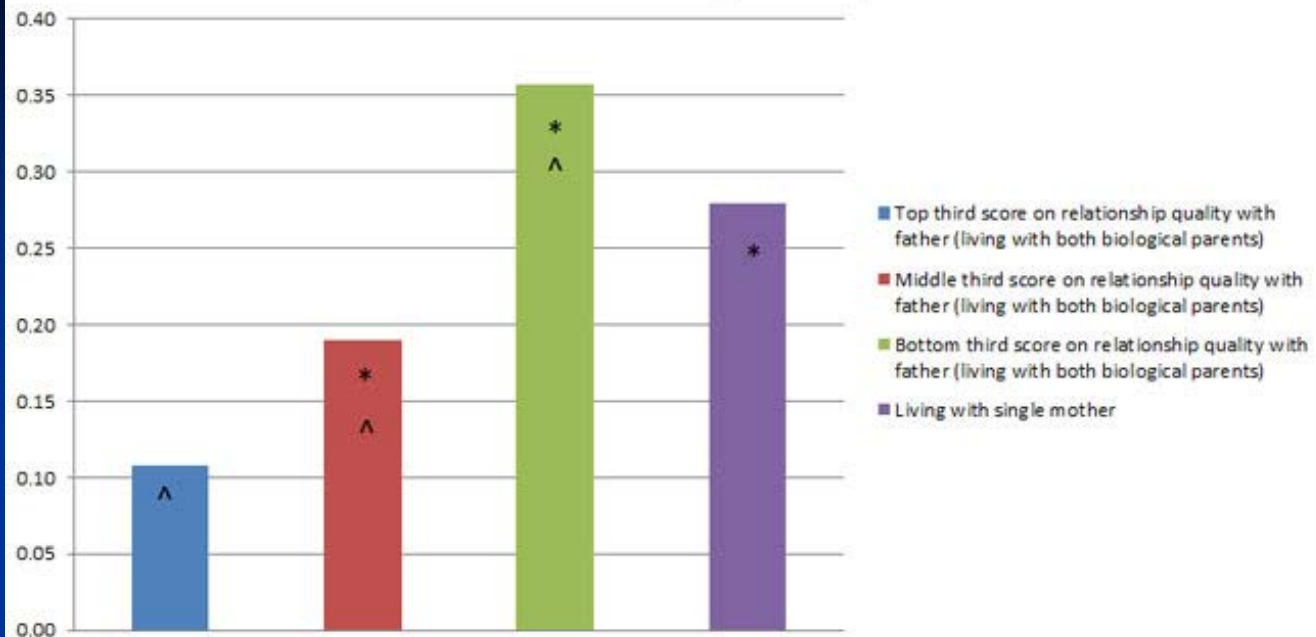
green: ~35%

red: ~19%

purple: ~27.5%

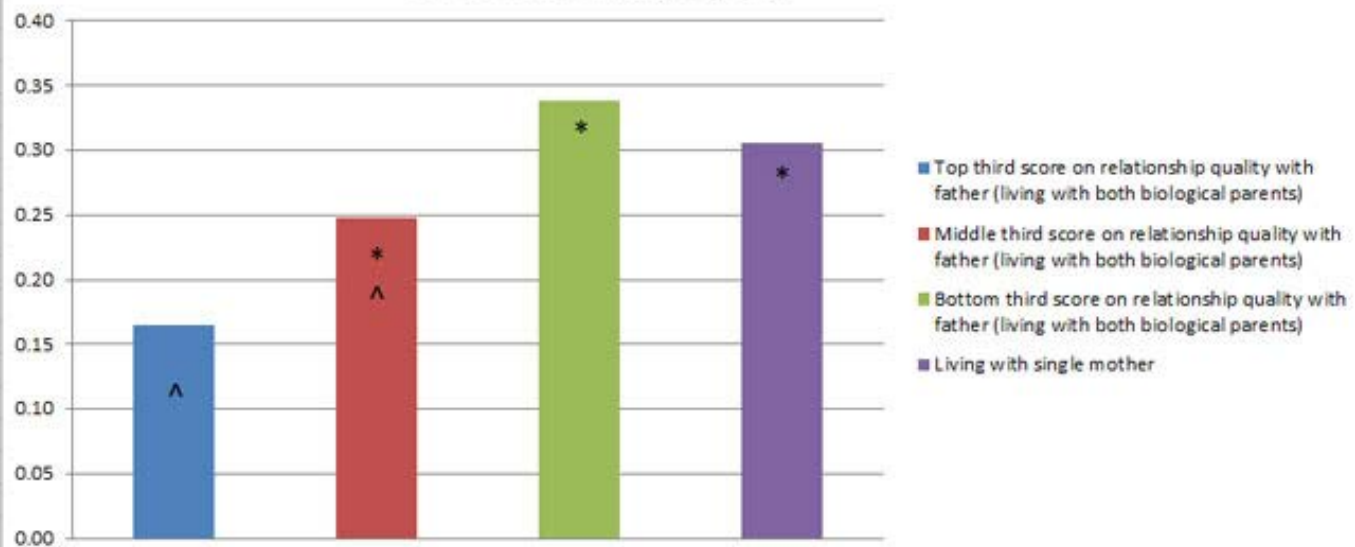
Proportion of Teens in the Top Quartile for Depression

Source: Add Health (N=14,363)



Proportion of Teen Boys in Top Quartile for Delinquency

Source: Add Health (N=6,979)



4 areas fathers make a difference

- Power of Play
 - Encouraging Risk
 - Protection from Threats
 - Father's Discipline
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- W. Bradford Wilcox, *The Distinct Positive Impact of a Good Dad*; The Atlantic; June 14, 2013; www.theatlantic.com/sexes/archive/2013/06/the-distinct-positive-impact-of-a-good-dad/276874/

Children of our Heavenly Father

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ¹⁷ And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. (Romans 8: 14-17; NIV)

4 Parenting Styles

DON'T ENFORCE
LIMITS

HIGH
EXPECTATIONS

SENSITIVE
RESPONSIVE

PERMISSIVE

AUTHORITATIVE

STERN
ALOOF

UNINVOLVED

AUTHORITARIAN

High

PERMISSIVE

Low expectations
Few rules

AUTHORITATIVE

High expectations
Clear standards

Responsiveness

Low

Control/Strictness

Demandingness

High

Absent
Passive, neglectful

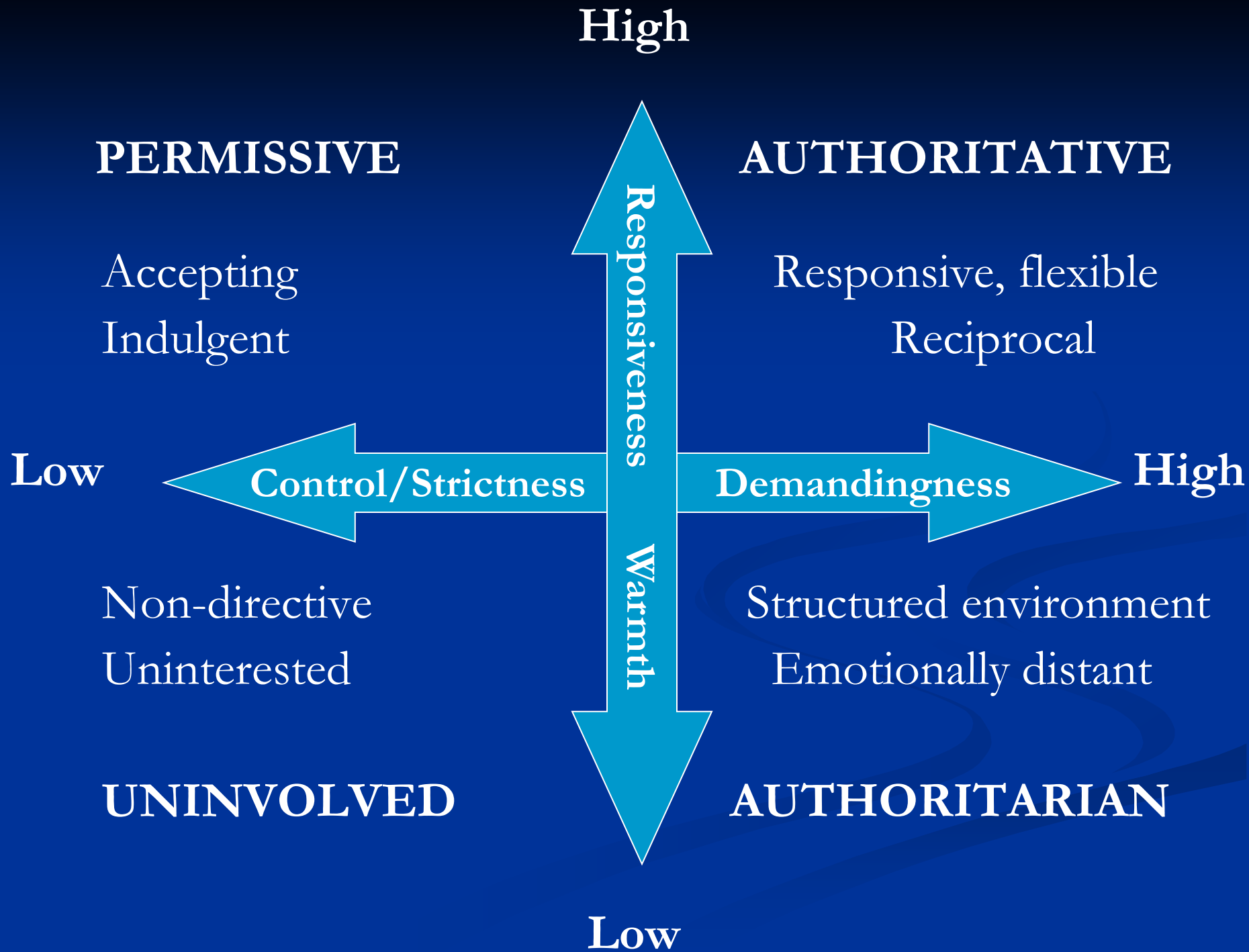
Clear rules
Punishment

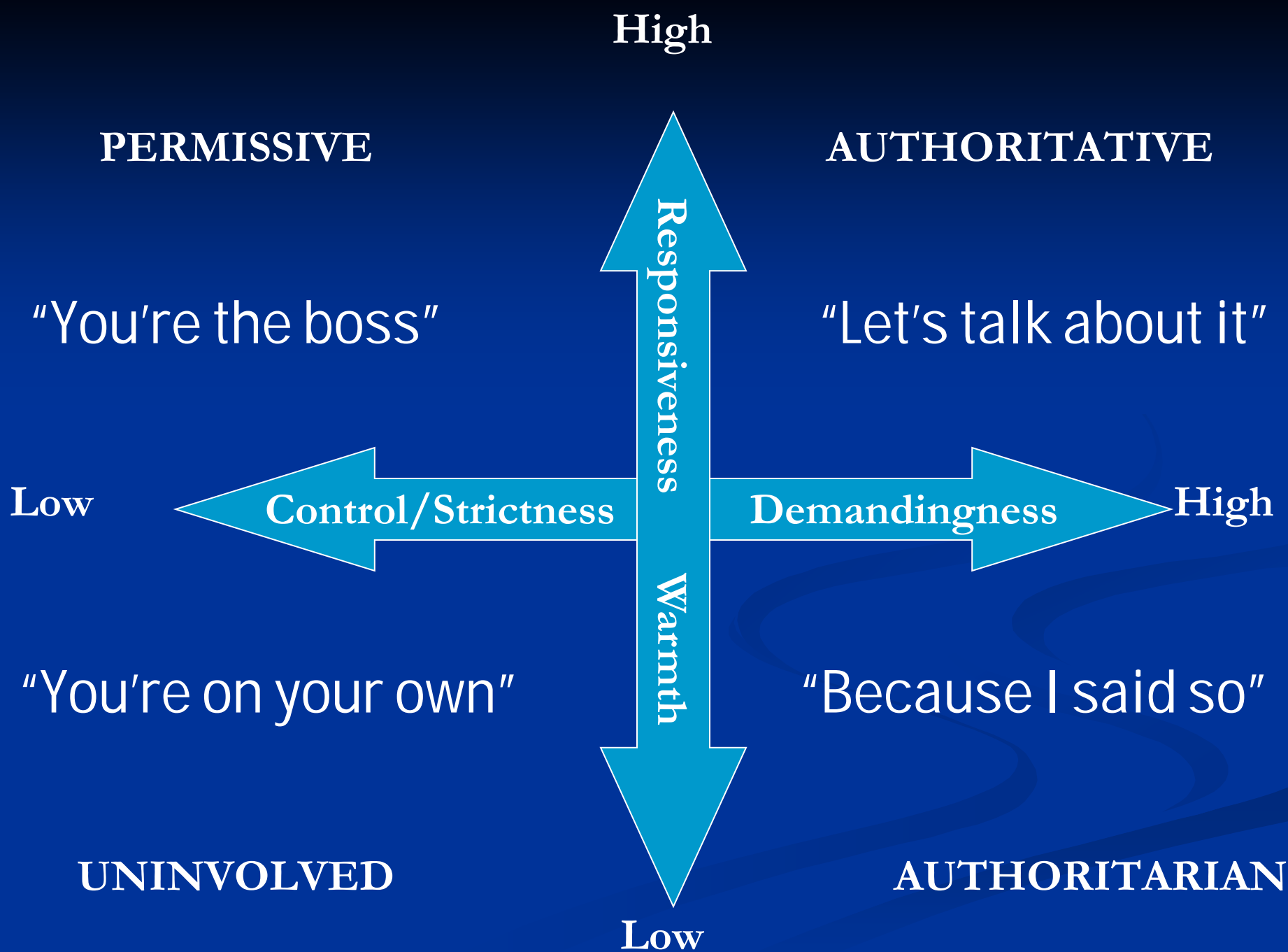
Warmth

UNINVOLVED

AUTHORITARIAN

Low





Which parenting style fits best with how God relates with His children?

⁸ When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. ⁹ Then the Lord God called to the man,

“Where are you?”

¹⁰ He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.”

¹¹ “Who told you that you were naked?” the Lord God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?”

(Gen. 3: 8-11; NLT)

God and Cain (Gen. 4: 8-12; NLT)

8 One day Cain suggested to his brother,
“Let’s go out into the fields.”

And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his
brother, Abel, and killed him.

9 Afterward the Lord asked Cain, “Where is your
brother? Where is Abel?”

“I don’t know,” Cain responded.

“Am I my brother’s guardian?”

(Gen. 4: 8-12; NLT)

10 But the Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground! 11 Now you are cursed and banished from the ground, which has swallowed your brother’s blood. 12 No longer will the ground yield good crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless wanderer on the earth.”

God and Moses – (Exod. 4)

But Moses protested again, “What if they won’t believe me or listen to me? What if they say, ‘The Lord never appeared to you?’” ... 8 The Lord said to Moses, “If they do not believe you and are not convinced by the first miraculous sign, they will be convinced by the second sign. 9 And if they don’t believe you or listen to you even after these two signs, then take some water from the Nile River and pour it out on the dry ground. When you do, the water from the Nile will turn to blood on the ground.” (Exod. 4: 1, 8-9; NLT)

God and Moses – (Exod. 4)

¹⁰ But Moses pleaded with the Lord, “O Lord, I’m not very good with words. I never have been, and I’m not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled.”

¹¹ Then the Lord asked Moses, “Who makes a person’s mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the Lord? ¹² Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say.”

(Exod. 4: 10-12; NLT)

13 But Moses again pleaded,
“Lord, please! Send anyone else.”

14 Then the Lord became angry with Moses. “All right,” he said. “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he speaks well. And look! He is on his way to meet you now. He will be delighted to see you. 15 Talk to him, and put the words in his mouth. I will be with both of you as you speak, and I will instruct you both in what to do. 16 Aaron will be your spokesman to the people. He will be your mouthpiece, and you will stand in the place of God for him, telling him what to say. 17 And take your shepherd’s staff with you, and use it to perform the miraculous signs I have shown you.” (Exod. 4: 13-17; NLT)

4 Parenting Styles

Which style fits best with
how God relates with His children?

PERMISSIVE

“You’re the boss”

AUTHORITATIVE

“Let’s talk about it”

UNINVOLVED

“You’re on your own”

AUTHORITARIAN

“Because I said so”

4 areas fathers make a difference

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 - Protection from Threats
 - **Father's Discipline**
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- W. Bradford Wilcox, *The Distinct Positive Impact of a Good Dad*; The Atlantic; June 14, 2013; www.theatlantic.com/sexes/archive/2013/06/the-distinct-positive-impact-of-a-good-dad/276874/

Common Child Discipline Mistakes

Lose Temper	Being played against the other parent
Inappropriate Physical Punishment	Confusing roles
Inconsistency	Imposing Excessive guilt
Bribery	Lecturing
Unconnected consequences	Comparing to others

<https://www.verywellfamily.com/child-discipline-mistakes-fathers-make-1270218>

Father's Discipline – Heb. 12: 4-11; NLT

4 After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.

5 And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said,

“My child, don’t make light of the Lord’s discipline, and don’t give up when he corrects you.

6 For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.”

Father's Discipline – Heb. 12: 4-11; NLT

7 As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? 8 If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. 9 Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever?

Father's Discipline – Heb. 12: 4-11; NLT

¹⁰ For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

As God's children ...

- are you being disciplined by our Heavenly Father?
- how have you been responding to His discipline?