

**AN EXCELLENT FAMILY**  
**The Ten Reality Rule Principles**  
**Dr. Kevin Lemen**

“The Reality Rule is a consistent, decisive, and respectful way for you to manage your personal life, your marriage, and your children with love, respect, and effectiveness.”

**Reality Rule Principle #3: Always Put Your Spouse (not the kids) First**

A strong, healthy marriage is the **ingredient** with the greatest potential for raising healthy, well adjusted children.

Parenting is a **team event**. Keeping the team focused and working together is essential for a winning experience.

Loving your spouse is an excellent **model** for your children to see as they learn of the unconditional love of God.

Conflicts between Mom and Dad can cause **insecurity** issues with the children that can take a lifetime to overcome.

Putting the **needs** of the children above those of the spouse can result in serious foundational problems that can be detrimental to the overall stability of the family.

Children tend to **thrive** in an environment where safety and security are modeled within the marriage relationship.