



HOW BIRTH-ORDER TENDENCIES CAN BE USED TO BUILD HARMONY

1st

Prodigal's Brother
Esau
James
Miriam
Peter



GREATER RESPONSE TO AUTHORITY

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2nd

Prodigal Son
Jacob
John
Thomas
Aaron
Mary
Andrew



GREATER NEED FOR ACCEPTANCE

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OTHER FACTORS THAT AFFECT TENDENCIES

1. SPIRITUAL GIFTS

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2. GENDER

- *Boy, boy, boy (Strongest)*
- *Girl, girl, girl (Strongest)*
- *Boy, boy, girl (3rd, 1st)*
- *Girl, girl, boy (1st, 3rd)*

3. PARENTS' ATTITUDES

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4. PERSONAL ATTITUDES

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• *Further children influenced more by older brothers and sisters*

HOW TO BRING HARMONY OUT OF CONFLICTING TENDENCIES

1. MEET PRIVATELY WITH THE FIRST-BORN

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Prodigal Son and Older Brother – Luke 15:11–32

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Jacob and Esau – Genesis 25:27–28

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Thomas – twin (Didymus) – John 20:24–29

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Mary and Martha – John 11:1–20

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John and James – John 13:23–25

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• ***Build the motivation of love – I John 4:20***

• ***Note the reward of serving – Matthew 23:11***

• ***Work out plan to encourage second-born***

Be aware of second-born

Be interested in what he is doing

Be attentive to what he says

Compliment him when he does well

Praise his achievements to your friends

Include him with your friends

Spend time alone with him

Ask for his ideas and opinions

Picture achievement for him

Defend and support him

Share books and ideas with him

- ***Set up times to report on progress***

2. MEET PRIVATELY WITH THE SECOND-BORN

- ***Verify his salvation experience***

- ***Explain how he can please you***

- ***Work out a “secret” project***

- ***What they did***

- ***How I felt***

- ***How I responded***

- ***Meet again to review his list***

- Work through steps of yielding rights***

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- ***Give him praise for any progress***

- ***Meet regularly to maintain oneness of spirit***

HOW TO DEVELOP CHARACTER QUALITIES

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2.

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8.

9.

- How was the character quality of the week demonstrated by that family member?***
- How could that family member have demonstrated the quality?***
- How did I feel when that family member demonstrated the quality?***
- How did I feel when that family member failed to demonstrate the quality?***
- What did God teach me through each situation?***