

Changing a Troublemaker

How important are affirmation and encouragement to anyone, but particularly to children? Peter Lord, author, minister and pastor of Park Avenue Baptist Church in Titusville, Fla., for 30 years, shares a story that addresses this subject.

He was always in trouble, so when the parents of the junior high school boy received another call to meet with his teacher and the principal, they knew what to expect.

The teacher said, "Thanks for coming. I wanted you to hear what I have to say."

The father waited, thinking about what defense he could use this time. The teacher proceeded to go down a list of 10 positive affirmations, or potential benefits, of this young "troublemaker."

When she finished, the father said, "And what else? Let's hear the bad things."

"That's all I wanted to say," the teacher said.

That night, when the father got home, he repeated the conversation to his son. Almost overnight, the troublemaker's behavior changed.

All because a teacher looked past the negatives to see the potential in a young man.

– Beecher Hunter