

there are strict and nurturant views of religion that go back as far as biblical and prebiblical times. These distinctions have been there for a very, very long time.

Does the strict father model imply that conservatives don't love their kids, and does the nurturant parent model imply that progressives don't believe in discipline?

Not at all. In the strict father model, physically disciplining a child who has done wrong, by inflicting sufficient pain, is a form of love—"tough love." Given the duty to impose "loving discipline," lots of hugging and other loving behavior are permissible, and often recommended, afterward. It's just a matter of first things first.

In the nurturant parent model, discipline arises not through painful physical punishment but through the promotion of responsible behavior via empathetic connection, the example of responsible behavior set by the parents, the open discussion of what the parents expect (and why), and, in the case of noncooperation, the removal of some of the good things that go with cooperation. A child raised through nurturance is a child who has achieved positive internal discipline without painful physical punishment. It is achieved through praise for cooperation, understanding the privileges that go with cooperation, clear guidelines, open discussion, and the example of parents who live by their nurturant values.

What are the complexities of the models?

The models (discussed in detail in chapter 17 of *Moral Politics*), have built-in complexities.

First, just about everybody in American culture has both models, either actively or passively. For example, to understand a John Wayne movie, you must have a strict father model in your brain, at least passively. You may not live by the model, but you can use it to understand the strict father narratives that permeate our culture. Nurturant narratives permeate our culture as well.

Second, many people use both models, but in different parts of their lives. For example, a lawyer might be strict in the courtroom but nurturant at home.

Third, you may have been brought up badly with one model, and may