

Week 2 practicality section - Structure is really beautiful | Theology – Identity - Practices

Theology ⇒ identity – Identity ⇒ practice | Theology of Christ ⇒ Identity in Christ ⇒ Practice for Christ

- Practice strengthens - Nothing is clearer than marriage & families | Picture of Christ & the church
We understand God more clearly as we experience being earthly parents...display to our children

Lessons: Love – Grace – Forgiveness – Protection – Discipline – Sacrifice | **Perfection = Christ**

Colossians 3:20-21 - Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. | Reality – Survivor / Bear / Too often survival...builder

Not trying to escape terrible fate; Build beautiful something w/ lasting value | What does it look like?

BI - God's design for parents is to teach, train, and encourage their children | How does God see?

- Our families here are temporary - Biological family unit was designed for earth and not eternity
 - But it was designed by God - Understand how He designed families | **Scripture say about kids...**

Psalms 127:3-5 – Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

God sees children as a blessing – lie that kids are a problem to be managed...they're a blessing!

Prov, 22:6 – Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

This and several other verses speak to the need to be actively engaged in raising our children up.

- **Actively Engaged** - This involves both instruction and correction 'Train...the way he should go'
 - There's a universal and a personal component: Universal = Right and Wrong | Personal = Unique
- How do we train our children up? Thousands of parenting books...some of them good, some terrible
- Not - "10 ways to get your kids to behave" or "Have your family look as happy as Instagram"

We're going to look at what Scripture says, God says about kids

1. Raise up your children God's way: **Develop their Respect**

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. = Command to children

- Once someone becomes an adult, they're no longer bound by command to obey their parents
 - We are bound to honor parents (Ex. 20:12) | Different...seasons | **What does look like...every?**

The limit to a child's obedience...actively be displeasing to God | This obedience is:

- A. Not just obeying when it's easy or requires no effort or change
- B. Not judging what's worth obeying and what's not | **C. Not setting the rules that they're to obey**

This mirrors the way we are to obey our heavenly Father: not just when it's easy or we feel like it

- We don't get to be the judge of what requires obedience – We don't set the rules...GOD

Junior High Ministry – I can't get my child to come to youth group...have you considered...car

Imagine if we just say 'no' to God – Consequences | God given parents authority to govern children

Remember...God's equipping us...successful if we're seeking Him & love others – including our kids!

What kind of obedience? Deuteronomy 6:6-9 – And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- It's to teach them who God is and what it means to follow him. **Principles from Deuteronomy:**

A. **Conviction:** Let God's law (heart) drive the rules you make – Can't give values you don't possess

B. **Consistency:** Teach diligently...not erratically - We learn by repetition – in word and in action

- God = Normal conversations – **not just 'in' and 'out'** | You home = Reminder of belief

What does all this have to do with obedience?

- Our children are commanded to obey us...our responsibility to help them successfully obey.
- This involves the rules we make, but also how we help them understand why obedience matters
And this is important, because after "no," the second most common response from a kid is: "why?"
- **Frustrated "because I said so!" = Parental failure - Foundationally correct = Trust me!**
Let's look at it from our perspective as God's children. We ask God 'why' all the time. That's ok.
- God never, "don't ask." Not always a satisfying answer | 'Just trust me' | Not entitled to answers
Teach kids the same way...ok to ask "why" understand the why is often discovered through obedience
For obedience to happen before a full explanation takes place, the one obeying has to accept the authority of the one giving the commands or setting the rules

Christians, take this perspective towards God...We trust His authority – Otherwise grudging or fail

- Parents teach our children same perspective...trust...obedience will be grudging or fail altogether
But there's more to it: we don't just obey God because he's powerful...and we trust...He loves us!

- God shows us how much he loves us...motivates us to obey – Not promised answers...LOVE

- **Same for our children: Obedience will grow the more confident they are in our love for them**

We instruct & correct children, but keep in mind not focused on "keeping them in line"

- Teaching God's truth - Love them - Raising them up...releasing...equipped | **Youth Ministry**

2. **Demonstrate your affection - Fathers, do not provoke your children,**

The subject of this command is now fathers. And it's applicable to both dads and moms (submission)

- **And what's the command?** Do not provoke. Provoke has a lot of meanings and...application.

A. Don't set a bar your kids can't reach

B. Don't condemn through criticism (correct their behavior, don't crush their spirit)

C. Don't make rules for rules' sake | D. Don't neglect your kids | E. Don't discipline in anger

The default or state-of-being for your child should be to feel loved and valued by you

You will need to discipline or correct, but this should not be the state of being...Painful

- If the norm is tension & aggravation, or pounce on mistakes, you will not have a healthy dynamic

- Their self-confidence will falter, resentment will grow...seeds of rebellion – you and against God

- High standards are fine, correction is necessary, but love has to be the foundation.

- Has to manifest. Remember, God's love for us took form – Appearance isn't enough – Real

- As a parent, your love manifests through consistency...long haul and bumps

I'm in trouble...I hope my dad doesn't find out | I'm in trouble...I need my dad | GOSPEL

Consistent affection: presence, teaching, standards, and among the most important, encouragement:

3. **Dedicate yourself to encouragement - lest they become discouraged.**

Four words that, to be honest, scare me as a parent...and I have failed at times

I can deal with: Mood swings – Attitude – Disappointment...Discouragement hurts even to think about

- **So how do we protect them from discouragement?** We have to protect their hearts.

In everyone's heart lives a desire for significance; to know that they are valued and they matter

That's our job...to make sure they know this is true...to know where their significance comes from

- Children can get a feeling of significance from lots of places...wrong places it's hollow & dangerous

- Lies: Guy tells a teenage girl he loves her...get what he wants out of the relationship

- Insincerity: Nothing to do with the value, but rather their participation in a position

- Inclusion: Desiring to 'fit in' and 'go with the flow'

Real affirmation comes from God, not man...Prince or Princess to the King

Our identity is in Christ, not a human relationship and not a worldly movement or community

God designed children to receive: Affirmation – Understanding – Love – Significance

Pray for your children - Encourage and affirm your children

When they fall short, dedicate yourself to two things: their correction, and their restoration

- **Every kid longs for God's design in their lives - They long to respect and learn from someone**

- They long for affection from someone further along in life than them

- They absolutely long for encouragement and the affirmation that they are valuable and loved

Some of us got it from parents, some of us got it from unhealthy places because our parents weren't present or weren't engaged in a godly way

Some of us have children that are wandering, maybe because of experiences earlier in their lives, or just because they're sinful humans and they're making bad decisions.

Whatever's in your past, let me encourage you:

- You don't belong to your past. You belong to God, the perfect heavenly father.
- Whatever your parenting journey...encourage: your kids don't belong to you. Belong God – Love
Let these things free us, but also motivate us as we go forward as parents

Develop our children's respect - Demonstrate our affection - Dedicate ourselves to encouragement

Children are God's image-bearers, arrows of all shapes and sizes that will be launched into the world

Let's follow God's design to teach, train, and encourage our children.