

parented & parenting



Center City Seminar
December 8th, 2023



The Outline

the parallel

the pathway

the paradox

the posture in parenting

The parallel in parenting

All of parenting is a POINTER to THE PERFECT PARENT.

“For everything that Christ taught, everything that makes the New Testament new, and better than the Old, everything that is distinctively Christian as opposed to merely Jewish, is summed up in the knowledge of the Fatherhood of God. ‘Father’ is the Christian name for God. Our understanding of Christianity cannot be better than our grasp of adoption.” - JI Packer

The parallel in parenting

All of parenting is a POINTER to THE PERFECT PARENT.

But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.

- 1 Thessalonians 2:7

The parallel in parenting

All of parenting is a POINTER to THE PERFECT PARENT.

1. God Glorifying

3. Spirit Enabled

2. Christ-Centered

4. Church infused

The parallel in parenting

All of parenting is a POINTER to THE PERFECT PARENT.

1. God Glorifying

2. **Christ - Centered**

Helpful exercise (at your risk!)

- What makes mommy and daddy mad or sad?
- What are the most important rules in our family?
Why do you think this is so?
- What do mommy and daddy value most?

The parallel in parenting

All of parenting is a POINTER to THE PERFECT PARENT.

1. God Glorifying
2. Christ - Centered
3. Spirit enabled

- 2 Corinthians 6:1
 - As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. (NIV)
 - Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (ESV)

The parallel in parenting

All of parenting is a POINTER to THE PERFECT PARENT.

1. God Glorifying
2. Christ - Centered
3. Spirit enabled
4. **Church infused**

- Infused vs integrated?
- Infused
 - Listen to God
 - Learn from one another (your leaders and peers)
 - Look at your child and yourself (know your proclivities)
 - Love God and love one another

The pathway in parenting



“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

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.”

Deuteronomy 6

The pathway in parenting



Stage One - Nurturing
Infancy to Four

Stage Two - Developing
Early Elementary to Middle School

Stage Three - Coaching
High School

Stage Four - Partnering
College - Adulthood

Stage Five - Friend
Adulthood

The pathway in parenting



Stage One - Nurturing Infancy to Four

Deut 32: 10-12 “He found him in a desert land,
and in the howling waste of the wilderness;
he encircled him, he cared for him,
he kept him as the apple of his eye.
Like an eagle that stirs up its nest,
that flutters over its young,
spreading out its wings, catching them,
bearing them on its pinions,
the LORD alone guided him,
no foreign god was with him.

- Around-the clock care
- meeting basic needs
- often exhausting
- wet-cement years
- attachment is critical

The pathway in parenting



Stage Two - Developing Early Elementary to Middle School

Psalms 32:8 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Isaiah 30: 20-21 And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

- Parents largely making decisions for children while teaching and coaching them for future independence

The pathway in parenting



Stage Three - Coaching High School

Matthew 10:16 “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

1 Cor 13: 11-12 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

- Parents make space and move to sidelines - Key is mentors
- Increased independence with increased responsibility

The pathway in parenting



Stage Four - Partnering College - Adulthood

John 15: 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

- Parents offer love, support, connection, advise (mostly when asked)

The pathway in parenting



Stage Five - Friend Adulthood

- Luke 6:40A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.
- Parents become parent-friend, parent-peers

The pathway in parenting



Stage One - Nurturing
Infancy to Four

Stage Two - Developing
Early Elementary to Middle School

Stage Three - Coaching
High School

Stage Four - Partnering
College - Adulthood

Stage Five - Friend
Adulthood

Workshop / discussion:

1. In your family of origin, what positive thing did you learn about God through your parents?
 - a. What do you have to (re)learn about God?
2. If you are a parent, what stage are you in? What's most enjoyable and challenging about this stage?
3. If you aren't a parent but part of a church, how do these stages parallel your Father's discipleship in you?

parented & parenting



Center City Seminar
December 8th, 2023



The Outline

the parallel

the pathway

the paradox

the posture in parenting

The paradox in parenting

training

&

treasuring



The paradox in parenting

training

&

treasuring

enthroning

enduring



The paradox in parenting

training

&

treasuring

enjoying

entrusting



The paradox in parenting

treasuring

- Psalm 139: 13-18 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

The paradox in parenting

treasuring

“Every block of stone has a statue inside it and it is the task of the sculptor to discover it. I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free.”

“Children are born as individuals. If we fail to see that, if we see them as clay to be molded into any shape we like, the tougher ones will fight back and end up spiteful and wild, while the less strong will lose that uniqueness they were born with.” Melvin Konner

“Hunting- that is what you are doing when you observe children for insight into their strengths. You are not playing the role of an inventor; rather, you are searching for something that is already there.” Jennifer Fox, *Knowing Your Child's Strengths*

The paradox in parenting

training

Train up a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not depart from it.

- Proverbs 22:6

The paradox in parenting

training

They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

- Hebrews 12:10-11

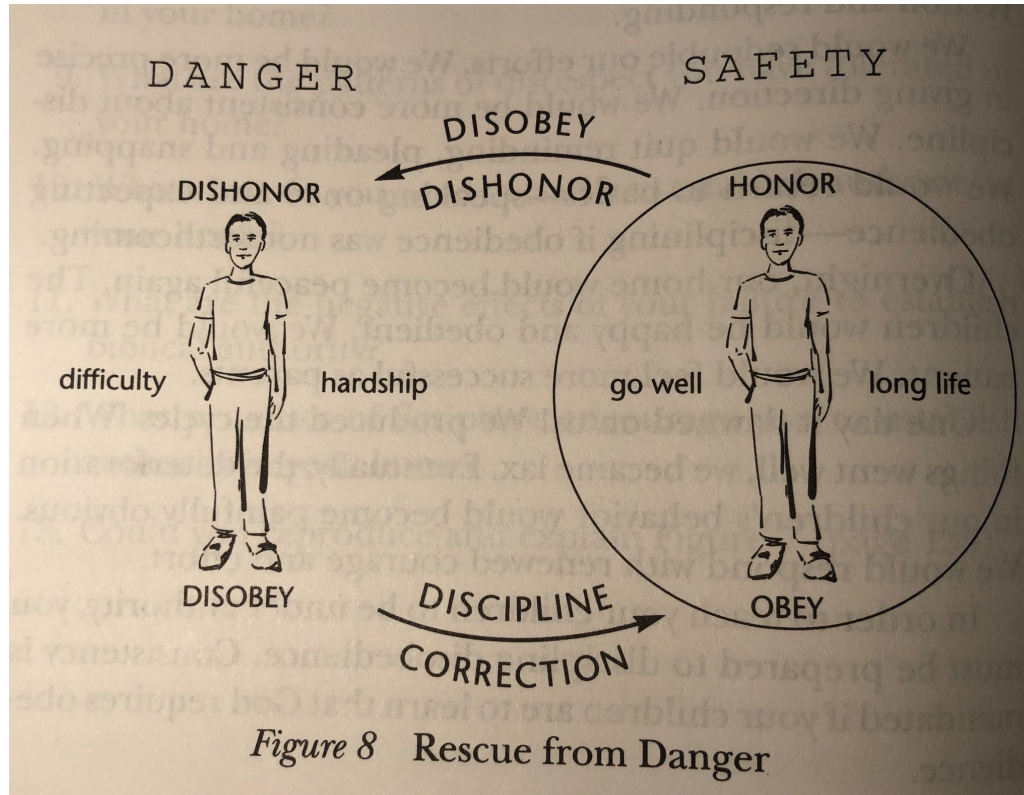
The paradox in parenting

training

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.

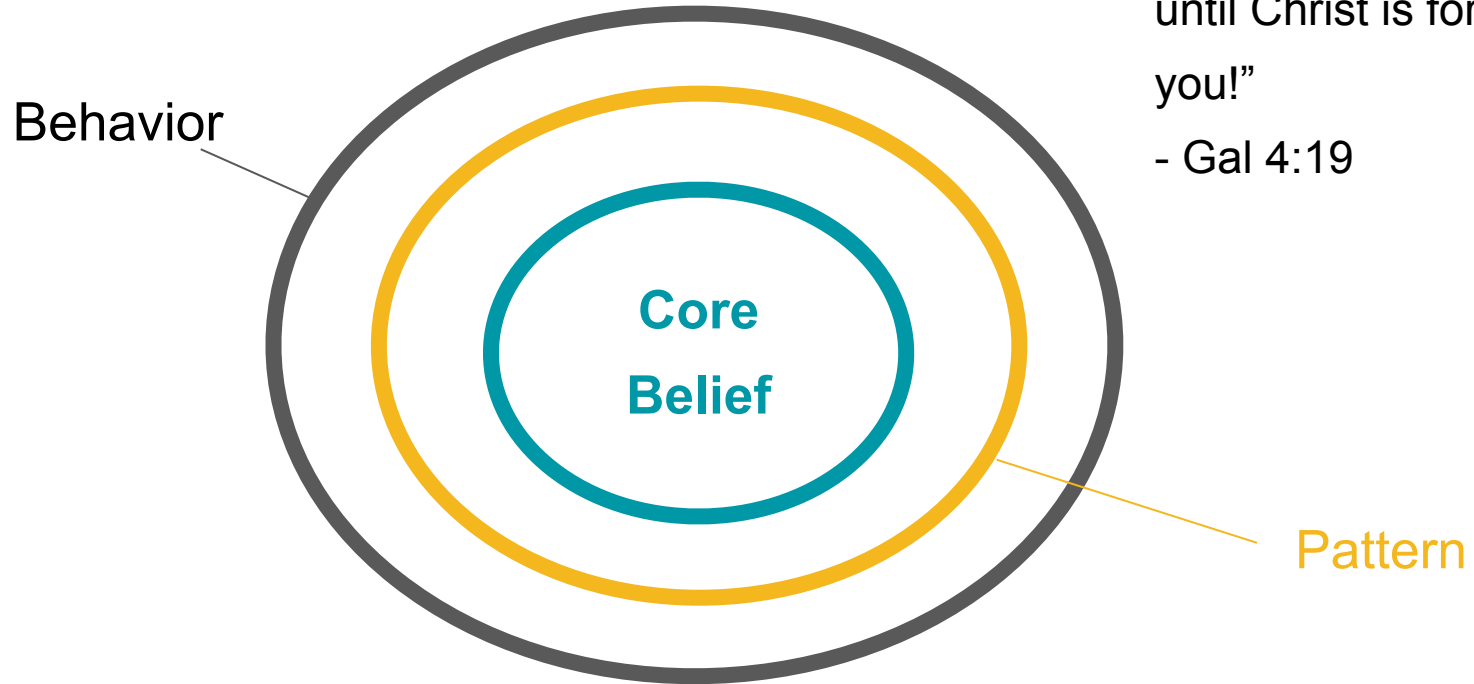
- Deuteronomy 6: 4-9

The paradox in parenting



The paradox in parenting

Concentric Circle Tool



“my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!”

- Gal 4:19

Workshop / discussion:

1. Where, when and how have you personally forgotten that Christ treasures you and made you well as a unique creation? What parts of yourself have you grown to hate or be ashamed of?
2. On the continuum of treasuring and training and enthroning and enduring, where you do most often fall? Why do you think this is so?
3. Using the Concentric Circle tool, assess a behavior that keeps coming up in your own life or the life of one of your children. Try to get to the core belief that needs to be addressed.