

## BIBLICAL PILLARS FOR A FAMILY FOUNDATION – Feb. 27, 2022

### Pillar Eight – Parenting

#### Lead (Ages 0 – 12)

#### A. Introduction

1. Parenting looks different for a toddler, a pre-teen, a teenager, and young adult
2. We have divided parenting into Leading (ages 0-12) and Launching (ages 12-18)
3. Parenting is
  - **Important** because it changes futures for multiple generations;
  - **Tough** because those of us who parent sin while teaching and disciplining our children to not live sinfully; Gospel of grace must be given and received
  - **Rewarding** because there are precious times with our children while they are growing up, because we get to see God's grace on display, and because there is no greater joy than to see our children walking in the truth (3 John 4);
  - More than anything, parenting is **identification** with God.

#### B. Goal of Parenting

1. We can delegate education in science, english, etc. We can delegate driver's education. We cannot delegate our role as teachers of the knowledge of God and His deeds. Our children learn both from our **words** and our **actions**.
2. Psalm 78 (especially vv. 1-9) – Parenting actions today leave a legacy for generations
  - Listen yourself (says that twice) (vv. 1-3)
  - God has entrusted parents to pass these on to the next generations (vv. 4-6)
    - *Remember God's character, deeds, commands (by extension -Gospel revelation and His Grace)*
  - Positive Goal (v. 7) — Trust (set hope in) God, remember God, obey God
  - Negative Goal (v. 8-11) — Not be like parents who didn't prepare hearts for personal and family faithfulness
3. Deuteronomy 6:1-9- Responsibility to “teach them diligently” to your sons/grandsons
  - Requirement (vv. 1-2, vv. 4-5)
    1. You — Fear Lord your God; Obey His commands
    2. You — Love God above all else with whole self
  - Rewards (v. 3)
    1. It may go well with you and your children
    2. You all may possess all God has promised
  - Reminder — Keep these things on your heart (v. 6)
  - Responsibility (vv. 7-9)
    1. Pass on the commands of God - formally
    2. Pass on the ways and stories of God - formally & informally

#### I. Parenting is a Spiritual Work

- A. *Parallel between “natural” and “spiritual” parenting 1 Thessalonians 2:7-11*
1. Gentle... as a mother and affectionately desirous of you.
  2. Willing to impart the gospel and our own lives.
  3. We labored and anguished night and day to not be a burden.
  4. Proclaimed truth of the gospel and lived holy, just, blameless lives
  5. We exhorted, comforted and charged you like a father does

- B. Biblical Parenting cannot be done in our own strength
  1. Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain... (Ps 127)
  2. He is at work in you to will and to do his pleasure (Phil. 2:13)
  3. Lead them towards maturity, striving according to his strength (Col. 1:28-29)
- C. Biblical Parenting will reveal or **expose** our weaknesses
  1. Our lack of knowledge, judgment and skill are exposed
  2. Our lack of strength, patience, love, consistency are exposed
  3. Our idols are exposed (things more important to us than God)
  4. We will see our tendencies to pull away from relationships or dominate relationships when our pain gets sufficient
  5. We will either move towards God or away from Him when these things show themselves. (See James 4:8-10)

## II. **Effective parenting has four primary characteristics**

- A. The dad accepts the leadership responsibility
- B. The mom and dad are on one page
- C. The children know they are not the parents
- D. Parents continually answer every child's unspoken question "*Am I Loved*" "Yes" and their unspoken question "*Can I Have My Own Way*" "No."

## III. **Method of Parenting: Shepherd the heart, not just control behaviors (T. Tripp, L. Crabb)**

- A. Much parenting is geared for convenience of parent
- B. Desire to avoid our embarrassment or stop our frustration
- C. Non-irritating behavior gets little attention, though it may show signs of living independently of God or indifferently to man.
- D. With bad behavior, our goal is often just getting them to quit the behavior but the greater sin is what the behavior reveals about their heart, (e.g., defiance of God or pleasing people brings life).
- E. Biblical definition of the Heart – nearly 700 passages on the heart (additional notes see Tedd Tripp, *Shepherding a Child's Heart*)
  - a. Common cultural association of heart is emotions and sensitive part of us
  - b. Biblical definition is broader - the non-physical core of who you are inclusive of mind, emotions, will, desires, goals, hopes (soul, spirit, innermost being, mind are also used)
    - Ezekiel 36:26 – I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.
    - Proverbs 4:23 – NIV-Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. NASB – Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.
    - Believe– Rom 10:9-10-with the heart one believes and is justified
    - Think – Gen 6:5-thoughts of men's hearts were evil continually
    - Speech is an overflow of the heart – Luke 6:43-45...out of abundance of the heart, his mouth speaks
    - Become convicted - 1 Samuel 24:5 – And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

- Remember – Deuteronomy 6:6 – And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. (Psalm 119:11, Prov 4:21)
- Discern- Ecclesiastes 10:2 – A wise man’s heart inclines him to the right, but a fool’s heart to the left.
- Develop intentions/desires - Hebrews 4:12 – For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Job 17:11)
- Make plans—Proverbs 6:12 – A worthless person, a wicked man, goes about with crooked speech, winks with his eyes, signals with his feet, points with his finger, with perverted heart devises evil (Prov 16:9)
- Experience peace – Prov 14:30, Prov 17:22
- Make connections - Ephesians 1:18 – eyes of your heart enlightened
- Meditate / Ponder – Luke 2:19-Mary ponders in her heart (Psalm 77:1)
- Fear -1 Samuel 28:5 – When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly.
- Experience gladness – Psalm 16:9, Psalm 33:21
- Grieve/Anguish/Sorrow– Psalm 38:8, Psalm 55:4, John 16L6
- Love – Deut 6:5 - Love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, strength
- Become stubborn- Exodus 8:32 – Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and did not let the people go. (Psalm 81:12)
- Lust – Matt 5:28 – anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has committed adultery with her in his heart (Numbers 15:39, Prov 6:25, Ezek 6:9)
- Pride – Prov 18:12, Prov 21:4
- Rejoice – 1 Sam 2:1, Psalm 13:5
- Seek God or don’t seek God -1 Kings 11:4 – As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. (Psalm 27, Jeremiah 29:13)
- Treasure things - Matt 6:21
- Give – 2 Cor 9:7
- Repent- 1 Kings 8:47, Acts 8:22
- Experience peace - Phil 4:7, Col 3:15
- Serve God-Deut 11:13

- A. Sin comes from the Heart – Mark 7:20-23 –“What comes out of a man is what makes him unclean. For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance, and folly. All these evils come from inside and make man unclean.”
- B. Example of our heavenly Father’s focus on our heart
1. **Isaiah 1:11-17**
  2. **Matthew 15:7-9**
- C. Reason Proverbs are directed at young people “choosing” to heed correction/instruction is that the choice to hear is the best example of where the heart is.

- D. Realize that behavior is an outflow of the heart (Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 15:18-20). Our job is to address the heart, which the behavior reveals. Parents must constantly make themselves aware of & respond to both heart and behavior in themselves and in their kids. God is our example.

**V. How do I Shepherd the Heart?**

- A. Start where God does – you are their authority (yet you, too, are under authority)  
**Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:1-4, Proverbs 13:24**
- B. Examine your **own goals** for how you parent
1. Why do you want them to succeed with school, sports or behaviors? Is it 1 Cor. 10:31 and 2 Cor. 5:9 or is it more concerning how we will feel – *like pride* – if their life goes well?
  2. What are God's goals for them learning well in school and socializing well and playing sports?
- C. Where appropriate, shift **goals you have** to **godly goals**
1. If motivation is for you, your correction of them will not be in love but will born out of fear and control (see 1 John 4:18)
  2. If motivation is for you, children will feel pressure and resent it
  3. If motivation is for you, God becomes your servant rather than other way around; anger or despair will likely control you.
- D. Helps to know God's requirements for us as parents
1. God holds us responsible to be good parents but not to raise good children. Parents' job is to be faithful in instruction and correction (Eph. 6:1-4). (**See also Prov. 13:1**)
  2. Proverbs shows us leaving the response choice to the children.
  3. God shows us with Hell ("*God's greatest compliment to man*").

Resources:

Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp

Age of Opportunity by Paul David Tripp

Real Family Values by Robert Lewis

Homebuilders® by *Family Life Today* (Dennis Rainey).

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**Discussion Questions follow, Appendix for homework**

## Discussion Questions Class 8

1. Who or what has most influenced your own view of parenting today?
2. Read together Deuteronomy 6:4-9. What do you see in the passage? What are you and your family doing today to try to follow that passage? What were parenting strengths of your parents as you look back now? How do they mark you today? What was one weakness and how did it affect you?
3. In what ways do you see the church “partnering with you” in your attempt to “make a disciple” (see Matthew 28:18-20) of your own child/ren? What have you seen take place in his/her/their life/lives so far through that effort? What would you still like to see done still more to help you fulfill that call?
4. What are the hardest 1-2 facets of parenting for you personally? May we turn that into prayer right now?

## Appendix One

### I. Goals of parenting younger kids (T. Tripp)

- A. **Obedience:** (0-6) – Willing submission to authority of parents without challenge, excuse or delay. Doesn't mean there are no "appeals" but does mean that the appeals are made on the way to obedience rather than as instead of obedience. This requires instruction, consistency, correction and discipline. If they aren't instructed, we can't expect them to follow. If we aren't consistent, they are unlikely to learn what we value. If we are quick to admonish and not patient enough to correct at times, they'll lose heart. We must also see that in certain cases (especially defiance), physical discipline is called for.
- B. **Character:** (7-12) – Honesty, dependability, humility, loyalty, diligence, self-control, moral purity, etc. Here we are not interested in asking 10 year old Jason to clean up his room because we said so – that is an obedience issue. Rather, we are asking him because we believe he is old enough to understand the concept of responsibility for possessions and for the house (which we have taught him) and we expect him to discipline himself to those purposes which are family values we hold.
- C. **Three areas** you examine with your child every so often are his relationship with God, himself and others.
1. What does he actually think about God? Does He see God as He is? Does he choose obedience to God (with no reward)? Does he talk about God? Does he pursue a personal relationship with God? How biblical is his worldview?
  2. What does he think about himself? How accurately does he see himself? His strengths? His weaknesses? Is he fearful? Does he rely on others inappropriately? Does he see his future soundly?
  3. What about his relationships with others? Does he respect his parents? Does he get along well with peers? Is he courteous? Does he listen well? Is he a gossip? Does he choose friends well? Does he handle relationships with the opposite sex appropriately? Does he use people or minister to them?

### I. Training Our Children

#### Proverbs 22:6

- a. Job — Train up a child in the way (s)he should go
  - Set the path appropriate for all children
  - According to his/her bent
- b. Result — He won't depart when he is old (*promise or principle?*)

#### Ephesians 6:4

1. Negative command — Dads, don't come alongside in a way that enrages the child, especially in the way you teach and correct
2. Positive command — Dads, do train (nourish) your children
  - Teach/train/correct/discipline intentionally, purposefully, with a more didactic, daily authority (as you would for a child)
  - Draw alongside to correct more gently (as if for an older one)

### II. Obstacles To Overcome Which I've Seen In Me

1. Spiritual complacency ("*not preparing heart*") Ps. 78:7, Mal. 2:15c
2. Letting world set my schedule rather than planning it
3. Trusting others to do it — abdication of assigned responsibility, often due in part to cowardice (*I hate the pain*) and pride (*I am afraid I'll do it poorly and need to lean on others along the way*).