

Lesson 17: Parenting, Part 2

I. Why Should We Teach?

A. Because God _____ us to do so (Deut 6; cf. also Eph 6:4)

1. Allegiance is owed to the one true God (v. 4).
2. The mark of a faithful parent is _____ heart's devotion, not their child's behavior (vv. 5-6).
3. Your children were sovereignly given to _____ (v. 7).
4. We all need to be reminded of _____, especially when life is good (v. 12).

"'Able' parents seem to be upset when children demonstrate over and over again that what they need to be is parented! If you walk down the hallway mad because your children need correction again, you're mad because at that moment they need what every human being constantly needs: a parent's care. But if you walk down that hallway confessing your need of the Father's care, it is more likely that you will embrace the need of your children for the same care, and you'll be tender as you give it." – Parenting, Paul Tripp, p. 36-37

B. Because we must prepare them to _____ (Ps 127)

1. Children are a _____ from the Lord.
2. Children are meant to be released at a _____.
3. Children do not exist to give you identity and life (cf. Ps. 73:25-26; Jn. 6:35; 10:10; 14:6).

"Parenting is ambassadorial work from beginning to end. It is not to be shaped and directed by personal interest, personal need, or cultural perspectives.... Parents who approach parenting as representatives come to it with a deep sense of identity and are motivated by meaning and purpose. They don't need to get that from their children because they have gotten it from the One whom they represent: the Lord Jesus Christ. Because of this...they are freed from asking family life to give them life because they have found life and their hearts are at rest." – Parenting, Paul Tripp, p. 14, 18

- a. Do I tend to think that I have the power and personal resources to mold my children into the children I envision?
- b. Do I tend to be angry and disappointed with my children primarily because whatever they have done has brought hassle and embarrassment to me?

- c. Am I attempting to get my identity from God in the work of his Son, or am I trying to get it from my children?
- d. If my children walked away from the faith, would my joy in the Lord be diminished?

C. Because if left unto themselves, they're headed for _____ (Rom 3:10-18)

- 1. Unrighteousness
- 2. Further misunderstanding
- 3. A life away from God
- 4. Worthlessness
- 5. Shameful and deceitful speech
- 6. Eagerness to harm others
- 7. Ruin and misery
- 8. No peace
- 9. No fear of God

II. What should we teach?

A. In short, the whole counsel _____

B. A biblical _____

- 1. Where did we come from and why are we here?
 - a. Our culture says: it's all random and doesn't mean anything.
 - b. The Bible says: we were created by God and exist to bring Him glory.
- 2. What is wrong with man/the world?
 - a. Our culture says: (man) our goodness is suppressed; (world) we don't respect nature.
 - b. The Bible says: (man) our sin put us at enmity with God; (world) because of our sin, God subjected the whole world to a curse.
- 3. How can it be fixed?
 - a. Our culture says: (man) through self-actualization; (world) we can save the world through environmentalism and conservation.
 - b. The Bible says: (man) reconciliation with God is only possible through embracing the gospel; (world) Jesus Christ will return soon and make all things new.

C. The _____

1. Teach them that God, their Creator, is holy and demands repentance.

"Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." – Acts 17:30-31

2. Teach them about their own depravity.

"...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." – Rom 3:23

- a. Major on _____ truths, not _____ annoyances.
 - b. Help them see that self-gratification is at the root of all sin.
 - c. Show them their sin is against God first, not man (Ps 51).
3. Teach them that Christ died on the cross for their sins.

"He made him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." – 2 Cor 5:21

4. What God wants from us *initially* – _____ and _____ from the heart.

"Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." Acts 2:37-39

"It's never enough, when your child has done something wrong, to just mete out discipline, because you're always dealing with something deeper than behavior. Your discipline must every time be coupled with clear biblical instruction. I don't mean angry sermons. What I mean is a brief conversation that once again enables your child to look at, examine, and understand the heart struggle behind his authority resistance.... The more your children understand why they do what they do, the easier it will be for them to admit their wrongs and see your forgiveness and God's." – Parenting, Paul Tripp, p. 117-118

5. What God wants from us *continually* – _____ and _____ from the heart.

6. That Jesus is coming soon, and all wrongs will be made right.

“So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.” – 2 Cor 5:9-11

D. The heart of the matter is a matter of the heart (Ps 1, Jer 17:5-9; Matt 15:18; Jas 1:14-15; 4:1-10)

“If you have little Sharon go down the hallway and into her room and pick up the toys that she has scattered everywhere, yelling at you as she goes, it is very important that you do not let Sharon think that she is obeying you. Because even though you can see Sharon’s body moving toward her room, her heart is raging in anger and rebellion against you and against your authority. True obedience always begins with the heart.

So you need to call Sharon back, not to say, “Don’t you ever dare talk to me that way again. Who do you think you are! Look at the size of me and the size of you. You don’t want to think about what will happen to you if you ever talk to me that way again!” You see, that kind of angry response hardens Sharon’s heart against authority, when what you want to do is be used of God to soften it.

You need to quickly pray for patience and grace and then lovingly call Sharon back and say, “Sharon, we have a problem here. Mommy wasn’t unkind to you. Mommy didn’t ask you to do something bad. Mommy didn’t call you mean names, yet you’re yelling at Mommy. When you yell at mommy, you’re trying to be the mommy of Mommy, and if you are the mommy of Mommy, then you have no Mommy over you to guide and protect you.”

Will your daughter immediately fall to her knees and say, “I get it; I am a self-oriented rebel against authority. I want to rule my own world and so I hate being told what to do. Mommy, I need to be rescued from the danger I am to myself!” Of course, that won’t happen, but you have taken one little step in helping your daughter to understand her heart, and you will have many, many more conversations like this, capturing little moments that God will empower by his grace.” – Parenting, Paul Tripp, p. 119-20

III. How should we teach?

A. With _____ (Deut 6:7a)

1. Diligence means to impress deeply.
2. Diligence implies that you're parenting with a sense of project.

"Because most of us don't parent with the sense of project, prepared for when God will give us the next opportunity [to address the hearts of each individual child], our parenting tends to be reactive. Surprised that another problem has called us into action, we react to the moment in the best way we can. The problem with this is that reactive parenting tends to be emotionally reactive.

Because we're not carrying around with us this project mentality, we tend to see these moments as interruptions and hassles, and because we do, we tend to deal with them emotionally. What this creates for your child is an irregular and inconsistent authority structure. Yesterday, you weren't doing well emotionally so the racket in the house drove you nuts and you yelled at your kids. Today, you're feeling good and so that same noise level that got them in trouble yesterday doesn't get them in trouble today. – Parenting, Paul Tripp, p. 93-94

B. With constant _____ (Deut 6:7b)

1. In the flow of everyday conversations.
2. Tied to the Word (v6).
3. Always _____ for mini lectures teaching moments.

"God has called you to a process of many mini-moments of insight that lead to many mini-moments of change. You must be patiently willing to have similar heart conversations again and again, praying each time that God would do in the heart of your son or daughter what you could never do." – Parenting, Paul Tripp, p. 202

C. With _____ (Col 4:6; Prov 16:20-24)

Col 4:6 - Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

D. With good _____ (Eph 4:29)

Eph 4:29 - Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

E. With their _____ in mind (Gal 4:19; Col 1:28)

Col 1:28 - We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

F. With _____ admonishment (Heb 12:5-11)**G. Without _____ (Matt 7:1-5)**

Recommended books:

- *Parenting*, by Paul Tripp
 - Great first book to read because it covers “the big picture.”
- *Shepherding a Child’s Heart*, by Tedd Tripp
 - Gets to root issues (also, *Withhold Not Correction*, by Bruce Ray).
- *The Faithful Parent*, by Martha Peace and Stuart Scott
 - Especially helpful for the person who says, “I get the why, but how?” It includes specific chapters for each age group.
- *Teach Them Diligently*, by Lou Priolo
 - Emphasizes instruction and is filled with Scripture.
- *Don’t Make Me Count to Three*, by Ginger Hubbard
 - Good for the parent who asks, “What do I do when I’ve given instruction, but they aren’t obeying...what’s next?” Perhaps *most* helpful for moms, especially with toddlers through elementary school.
- *The Heart of Anger*, by Lou Priolo
 - Great not only to address an angry child, but also helpful (and convicting) for angry parents and thus angry homes (also, *Getting a Grip: The Heart of Anger for Teens*, by Lou Priolo).
- *Disciplines of a Godly Family*, by Kent and Barbara Hughes
 - Helps parents establish great habits in all areas of family life.
- *Family Worship*, by Joel Beeke
 - Primarily recommended for men, as they are called to lead in this area.
- *Age of Opportunity*, by Paul Tripp
 - Great for help with teens (also, *Get Outta My Face*, by Rick Horne, which is especially helpful for reaching angry, unmotivated teens).
- *Treasuring Christ When Your Hands are Full*, by Gloria Furman
 - Great for the mom who needs hope.