

#1 - INTRODUCTION

I. Media

VIDEO: *Parenting Is Hard*

1. Candy
2. Haley
3. Joel
4. Peter

II. Confession/Story

1. My mom this week
 - (1) My dad has been here...but none of you have every seen or met my mom.
 - (2) family pic
 - (3) We haven't all been in the same room in 15 years
 - (4) I haven't seen my mom in 10 years.
2. Family migration story
 - (1) Escaping abuse
 - (1) Maria del Anna (Mariellos, the lawyer)
 - (2) Mario (LAPD)
 - (3) Gustavo (Car sales)
 - (4) Maria del Carmen (home care giver)
3. Mom's legacy story
 - (1) Not only married into abuse...but was, in some unknown way, abused
 - (2) My mom, therefore, only knew how to deal with anger in ways...we now only know how to define...as abusive.

III. Bridge

1. Lots of complicated relationships here.
 - (1) Some of it is generational
2. Some of it is legitimate disfunction or abuse.
3. All of it is redeemable in the Gospel and how it outflows into our own parenting.
4. Because if we don't deal with some of this stuff, it will leak into our parenting, subversively... unknowingly.
5. And I suspect...all of this morning have some repenting to do.



#2 - A LEGACY OF REPENTANCE

I. Repenting Backwards (v1-2)

1. Obedience (to most, albeit, imperfect parents) - to submit

(1) Aggregation of submission:

- i. You can be right; in a right way; about something that isn't sinful (**obey**)
- ii. You be wrong; in a right way; about something that isn't sinful (**obey**)
- iii. You can be wrong; in sinful way; about something that isn't sinful (**obey**)
- iv. You can be wrong; in a sinful or right way; about something that is sinful (**disobey**)

(2) What about as adults?

- i. Once you have left the authority of your parents, obedience becomes honor.
- ii. As kids, we honor them through our obedience.
- iii. As adults, we obey them through our honoring.

(3) How we model obedience:

- i. **By repenting** of our own present disobedience. And past to our parents:
- ii. Some of you need to go back and acknowledge the pain and hurt you cause them.
- iii. You had too high expectations of imperfect people trying to model a perfect God.

(4) **Principle: Obey, even when not agreeable** with the person or the instruction.

2. Honor (all, even abusive, parents) - to show regard and value for

(1) The instruction to honor is directed at the children...not the parents.

- i. In other words, don't parent with honor as your objective...but obedience.
- ii. Which is hard...because you want approval...even from your kids.

(2) A Huge Concept:

- i. Parents: You are not parenting your kids for their 14-year-old happiness
- ii. Parents: You are parenting your kids for their 40 year old happiness
- iii. Church: You are not discipline them for their present joy
- iv. Church: You are discipling them for their eternal joy

(3) All parents!?

- i. It would be so much easier if God had asked only that we honor our parents if they are good, kind and loving to us
- ii. Abuse comes in many forms. A child can be brought up well clothed and fed with all his needs supplied except for the all-important need for love and approval. No physical harm is ever done to him, yet, as each year goes by, his spirit shrivels up inside him more and more, as a plant will shrivel without sunlight, desperate for the smallest demonstration of affection. Eventually, he grows to adulthood; everything seems to be normal, yet he is crippled inside by the indifference of his parents.
- iii. Then again, a child's spirit may be broken at an early age—even though he suffers no physical abuse—by being constantly told that he is useless and a waste of space.

Everything he attempts is sneered at until he gives up trying to do anything at all. Because very young children naturally believe what their parents say about them, the child who suffers this treatment will gradually withdraw into himself, retiring behind an invisible wall and simply existing rather than living. These children grow up never suffering physically at the hands of their parents but nevertheless crippled in their spirits. As grown-ups, they find it difficult to make friends and are unable to relate normally to other adults.

- iv. So, child abuse can be subtle. There is, of course, the more obvious kind—when a child is neglected, kicked and beaten and, worse still, sexually abused. The damage such abuse causes can last a lifetime. Now for the big question: how do we obey God's commandment to honor parents who behave with such cruelty toward their own children?

(4) How we model honor:

- i. **By repenting** of our dishonorable words, actions and posture.
- ii. You had parents that did hurtful, wrongful and sinful things...in all likelihood because they had hurtful, wrongful and sinful things done to them. That's not to say it was ok, but it's to say they are undeserving of Grace just as we are.
- iii. You have a change to break the cycle of dishonor (which produces life v3)
 - By the grace of God, **be WILLING to forgive**. A willingness to forgive honors both God and the parent.
 - **Pray for your mom/dad**. Let go of expectations that your parent will ever be the parent you want him or her to be; replace your disappointment and sadness with acceptance of who the person is.
 - **Cultivate an attitude of compassion** for the things your parent did right, and express gratitude for even slight efforts to show love.
 - **Refrain from making disparaging remarks** about your parent. If it is safe to be in communication with your parent, establish wise boundaries to reduce sinful temptations for you and your parent.

(5) **Principle:** Honor, even when when they are not honorable, as it is more about your character than theirs.

II. Repenting Forwards (v3)

1. That It May Go Well With You

- (1) Have a full life
- (2) But full of what?

2. That You May Live Long In The Land

- (1) Have a long life
- (2) But to what end?

3. Repenting of our vision and our dreams...which can be crippling. Time to let them go.

- (1) Academics/Athletics/Giftedness
- (2) Relationships/Marriage
- (3) Behavior/Personality



III. Repenting Inwards (v4)

1. Option #1: Bringing Them Up In Instruction of Ourselves

(1) The Means

- i. Laws that are about your desires and dreams, fears and failures...not about God's will.
- ii. Consequences are higher for violating your laws vs God's law

(2) The Results (v4a)

Col. 3:20-21: "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged."

- i. Provoked to anger

2. Option #2: Bringing Them Up In Instruction of Our Lord (v4b)

(1) The Results (v3)

- i. A full life and long life (more during week on authority/submission)
- ii. There is a way where we think we're bringing them up in the instruction of the Lord, but we're really bringing them in the instruction of ourselves.

3. Principle to Abide By:

(1) Pay Close Attention To What You Desire For Them

- (1) your vision and goals for them
- (2) Repent of parenting out of your own fears and parent's failings

(2) Pay Close Attention To How You Desire It For Them

- (1) Rulers/authorities: sources; your parenting instruction manual? (v6)

(3) Pay Close Attention To Their Responses To Your Desires

- (1) anger? why? if it's always anger...there is probably a problem.

(4) Pay Close Attention To Your Responses To Their Responses

- i. Their anger produces your law
- ii. A pattern of anger in their response is a good indicator their is parent that needs to repent.
- iii. Repent more often than you are comfortable with or you think is necessary
- iv. How often did your parents say sorry. How often do you? It lessens the burden they carry.

#4 - CONCLUSION

I. Questions

1. Before you take communion....do you need to model repentance for your kids and to your parents? Or do model repentance with your kids as their parents?
2. Who in the church do you need to repent to because you were not disciplining them in the instruction of the Lord, but out of your own brokenness or disordered desires to be obeyed and honored?

