



Parenting with Grace

Forest Park Church

May 19th 2024

By Bruce Runner

Intro: What I know about parenting I learned from years of reading the Bible and from my family. God is a gracious Father, And my family is a gracious family.

To be a gracious parent, you must first learn how to be gracious to other people

Mr. Wheeler was my Grandpa's partner in business. At one time Wheeler was well off. He started building a two-story house next to my grandparents house for his fiance as they were soon to be married. He never finished it, as she either died or broke up with him. He never finished the house, it was abandoned. He ended up needing help and a place to stay, so grandpa and grandma made an apartment upstairs in their house for him to live in, and he lived there for years until he died.

Dad converted a widow lady in North Dakota who had no one to care for her, so mom and dad took her in. She started living with us when I was about 5 and stayed with us until I was in 4th grade.

A motel owner In Sterling Colorado had a son who was rebellious so mom and dad took him in for a while.

Mom always cooked extra every Sunday because dad would invite a visitor over for dinner

We were used to giving up our beds to visitors coming to spend the night.

Schaffners a family of 5 kids stayed with us for several months while mother went to Mayo

That same compassion and grace dad had for people was shared daily with my siblings and

Prop: Here are some things that I have learned.

I. Teach your kids to remember:

A. who they are.

Before leaving for an outing with other young people, dad would always say, "Now remember who you are..."

-Your name is special. You are special. Your reputation is important. Don't ruin it.#

Pro 22:1 A good name is more desirable than great wealth. Respect is better than silver or gold. GW

Rom 8:1 Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.

B. Who's they are

Rom 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons *and daughters* by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" **16** The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*. NASB

II. Forgive and Forget their mistakes

A friend told me a story about his son stealing a candy bar. He made him go back to the store and apologize while paying for the candy bar with his own allowance. Then he whipped him. And he reminded him of his transgression every day for a week whipping him again each time. He asked me what I thought about it. I replied. "My dad would have never done that. He would punish us with three swats with his belt, and it was never brought back up again."

a kid does something wrong, and some parents bring it up over and over again... God doesn't do that!

Psa 103:9 The LORD won't always be angry and point out our sins; **10** he doesn't punish us as our sins deserve. **11** How great is God's love for all who worship him? Greater than the distance between heaven and earth! **12** How far has the LORD taken our sins from us? Farther than the distance from east to west! **13** Just as parents are kind to their children, the LORD is kind to all who worship him, **14** because he knows we are made of dust. CEV

Rom 8:1 Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.

III. Make rules and enforce them, but No unnecessary Rules

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. **2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER** (which is the first commandment with a promise),

A. Rules are necessary in life

1. Teach them “no” at a very early age.

remember reading a story about a mother standing near a curb by a traffic light with her toddler. The light turned green and her toddler started to run when she shouted “Stop! He stopped immediately while A car came sliding out of control around the corner. If he wouldn't have been taught to listen, he would have been killed.

-rebellion is never cute!

2. You never lie, steal, or cheat

-if we lied we got an extra swat with the belt

3. You never disrespect your mother

4. Church is our top priority

5. The Bible is the final authority.

6. If you are disrespectful, you must apologize

7. Be consistent.

8. Practice what you preach.

9. Do your chores. Everyone should have responsibilities

-get up in the morning and dress for the day

-make bed, brush teeth, learn to wash, dry, iron clothes. Learn how to cook, use tools, change a tire, mow the grass,

-teach survival skills

10. Encourage personal worship

B. Don't make unnecessary rules just because you can

I asked mom one day if I could go down to the river and go swimming. She said reluctantly, “Ok, but don't go near the water...” We laughed about that for years.

Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

My sister wanted to play basketball. Dad could have told her absolutely not because they wore immodest outfits, and they played during church time. Dad didn't tell her she couldn't play. He told her that if she could do it with a good conscience she could play. She chose not to.

When I was 13-14 years old, I wanted to spend two weeks on a friend's farm 75 miles away from home. I would get to be with my friends, and help them bale hay. They offered me .10C a

bale. Dad knew I would be missing church but he didn't say I couldn't go. He said you can go, if I agree to hold a Sunday church service in their house so you don't miss church.

After graduating from High School, my best friend, Steve Staab and I wanted to go on a camping trip by a lake over 100 miles away. Dad agreed. So we got to the lake, camped out, did some fishing, skipped a lot of rocks, swam, and watched the boats pass by. A boat pulled up to the dock nearby and it happened to be a bunch of my high-school friends from Spring Valley! They invited us to go riding and that seemed innocent enough so we went. What could go wrong? A fast boat, a bunch of teenagers. It didn't take long to realize we were out of place. They broke out the ice chest, and we couldn't wait to get off the boat.

I could have gotten into a lot of trouble...no one would ever know...were far from home. But we didn't. I didn't want to do wrong and hurt my mom and dad.

Dad allowed us to go anywhere reasonable, do anything we wanted if it was good wholesome entertainment. Whether it was tying flies, woodwork, horses, cars, school work, dad was our biggest supporter. He never told us no unless it was dangerous, sinful, or just plain foolish.

C. Abuse is never God-like and makes you the rule breaker. It is a sin to hurt kids!

Matt. 18:6 "But if you give them a hard time, bullying or taking advantage of their simple trust, you'll soon wish you hadn't. You'd be better off dropped in the middle of the lake with a millstone around your neck. Doom to the world for giving these God-believing children a hard time! Hard times are inevitable, but you don't have to make it worse—and it's doomsday to you if you do. **MSG**

A preacher I knew as a kid who taught us at camp took his son out in the woods and beat him with a switch until his back was all bloody from the swats

Saw a father grab his daughter by her hair and snap her head back with a quick jerk

How to discipline:

-these rules don't apply to babies or little toddlers! Talking or a little spank on the hand will work

1. Never use your hand to spank. Use a paddle or a belt and limit it to a couple of swats
2. Explain before why you are spanking them. Explain after why you spanked them.
3. Never back hand your child. Wait until you cool off and think about what you are doing
4. Some kids don't need spanking, a talking will do.
5. Once they become a Christian, appealing to Christ and his teachings should do the trick.

IV. Give reasons why

Col 4:6 Be pleasant and hold their interest when you speak the message. Choose your words carefully and be ready to give answers to anyone who asks questions.

Very few questions should be answered "Because I said so!"

-Kids deserve an answer, a reason

-Usually when you explain why, they will understand and will be willing to do what you want them to do.

-We had an 11:00 curfew. If they didn't call and say they would be late, that meant something was wrong and I would go looking for them.

V. Be a Friend

"you're their parent, you are not supposed to be their friend"

Who says? That is not a true statement.

[Jas 2:23](#) and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,” and he was called a [friend](#) of God.

-you should be close friends with your kids. There should be conversations between you that only close friends can talk about. Like feelings, their goals, their disappointments, their hurts

VI. Avoid confrontation by providing optional behavior

Jeremy’s bee hive was robbed by a bear. It licked every drop of honey out of it, taking it apart. The grass was all matted down where the bear rolled around trying to get the bees off.

-Difference between bears and humans robbing a hive is the human provides a distraction with smoke. The bees are so concerned about the smoke they don’t realize they are being robbed!

-Some parents are always getting into messes with their kids because they handle confrontations like a bear!

kids when they were younger didn’t want to take a nap. I would tell them just to lay down a little while...you don’t have to sleep. Just rest a few minutes. I would then put on classical music and it did the trick...they would willingly nap

Jeanette has art supplies in the study. Instead of fussing about their petty arguing and fussing, they are encouraged to go and be creative

give them a ball and play outside.

Bible example of this:

Eph 4:28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

VII. Strengthen their gifts

“If you teach your kids right, they will turn out right...eventually”

-misunderstanding of Prov. 22:6 The truth is, your kids have free will. You can be a perfect parent and they can choose to not follow Christ. So what does Prov. 22:6 mean?

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent], and when he is old he will not depart from it. AMPC

-Your kids were given gifts by God...natural talents

-It is our job to help them know what those talents are and to encourage them and direct them in them.

Since Cassie was a baby, she loved music. I would turn on the stereo and she was drawn to it, almost mesmerized by it. She excelled later in band and with piano lessons. To this day, when she sings, you can see her light up.

-it would have been a travesty to not have given her opportunities to express her gift

VIII. Love them

I Peter 4:8

Above all things have intense *and* unending love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins [forgives and disregards the offenses of others]. AMPC

Christian father had the habit of always running his teen-age son down in front of the other men. He would act like he was joking, but his words were like swords. He would tell us how lazy he was, how stupid he was while the kid just withered before him.

-needless to say, he’s not in the church, he moved far away from home and I’m not sure how he is doing now.

-Dad always praised us when we tried to do something. It was almost embarrassing. To him I was the best Dozer operator, guitar player, mechanic, preacher...you name it.
-But I'd rather have a dad who's lifting me up than one who's putting me down! And so would your kids!

IX. Pray for them

Job 1:5 And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

I pray for my kids daily. I remember praying this prayer in September 2002
"Lord, Do whatever it takes to get me and my family to heaven..."

Conc: One of the most loved stories in the Bible is the one about the prodigal son in Luke 15. We love it because it shows how Gracious God is.

-The story show that because the Father loved him, he let him go ...even though he knew what the outcome would be. He didn't run after him, he didn't enable him.

-The son spends all his money on wine and women and is homeless and in trouble.

-He doesn't realize how much his father really loves him until the Bible says, "He came to his senses."

-Every day his father has been going to the road looking down it for some sign of his return...waiting.

-When the son does decide to come home, his father "see's him coming a long way off and had compassion"

-He is immediately forgiven, he is immediately restored, and there is rejoicing because the lost is found.

That is gracious parenting.