



Introduction

- The Bible presents the heart as the control center of our lives.
- Proverbs 4:23
- Mark 7:13-23.
- Luke 6:45

The Heart Issue

- The fundamental task of parenting is addressing the heart.
- Matthew 15:8
- Your child can have model behavior but have a dead heart towards God.
- The crux of the matter is sin.
- Jeremiah 17:9-10
- Only God through his Word can judge the heart.

Two Parenting Approaches

Ownership Parenting

- Ownership parenting comes from the view that our children belong to us, and we can parent as we see fit.
- Your children do not belong to you. They belong to God.

Ambassador Parenting

- Ambassador parenting recognizes that our children do not ultimately belong to us, but to God.
- Psalm 127:3
- An ambassador represents a higher authority.
- Parents have derived authority.
- Ownership parenting is about what we want for or from our children
- Ambassadorial parenting is about what God through his grace is doing through us in our children.

Differences

Identity

- Parents that think their children ultimately belong to them tend to get their meaning, purpose, and sense of well-being from their children.
- God does not give us children to give our lives purpose and meaning.
- Ambassadorial parents already have a sense of identity that comes from Christ.



Work

- Owner parents think it is their job to mold their children into something.
- Ambassador parents understand they represent the one who ultimately decides who and what their children should be.

Success

- Owner parents are looking for signs they have been successful parents.
- Ambassador parents understand they lack the power to produce success in anything; their job is faithfulness in parenting.

Reputation

- Owner parents make their children trophies.
- Ambassador parents understand that parenting sinners will result in embarrassing situations at times.