

# **PARENTING WITH THE END IN VIEW**

## **SESSION 2 – PARENTING GOALS FOR EVERY SEASON**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Trust and obey**

"Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

Psalm 37:3-4

"A true Christian must be no slave to fashion, if he would train his child for heaven. He must not be content to do things merely because they are the custom of the world; to teach them and instruct them in certain ways, merely because it is usual; to allow them to read books of a questionable sort, merely because everybody else reads them; to let them form habits of a doubtful tendency, merely because they are the habits of the day. He must train with an eye to his children's souls. He must not be ashamed to hear his training called singular and strange. What if it is? The time is short, the fashion of this world passeth away. He that has trained his children for heaven, rather than for earth, for God, rather than for man—he is the parent that will be called wise at last."

J. C. Ryle, *The Duties of Parents*, 9

### **LITTLE KIDS**

#### **1. Establish authority**

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise), 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.'"

Ephesians 6:1-3

"Obedience is the only reality. It is faith visible, faith acting, and faith incarnate. It is the test of real discipleship among the Lord's people."

J. C. Ryle, *The Duties of Parents*, 19

#### **2. Develop a Godward orientation**

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### 3. Shower affection

“Love should be the silver thread that runs through all your conduct. Kindness, gentleness, long-suffering, forbearance, patience, sympathy, a willingness to enter into childish troubles, a readiness to take part in childish joys, these are the cords by which a child may be led most easily, these are the clues you must follow if you would find the way to his heart. Few are to be found, even among grown-up people, who are not more easy to draw than to drive.”

J. C. Ryle, *The Duties of Parents*, 4

“Love is one grand secret of successful training. Anger and harshness may frighten, but they will not persuade the child that you are right; and if he sees you often out of temper, you will soon cease to have his respect. A father who speaks to his son as Saul did to Jonathan (1 Sam. xx. 30), need not expect to retain his influence over that son's mind. Try hard to keep up a hold on your child's affections. It is a dangerous thing to make your children afraid of you. Anything is almost better than reserve and constraint between your child and yourself; and this will come in with fear. Fear puts an end to openness of manner; fear leads to concealment; -fear sows the seed of much hypocrisy, and leads to many a lie. There is a mine of truth in the Apostle's words to the Colossians: ‘Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged’ (Col. iii. 21). Let not the advice it contains be overlooked.”

J. C. Ryle, *The Duties of Parents*, 6

## SCHOOL-AGE

### 1. Teach them diligently

“As a minister, I cannot help remarking that there is hardly any subject about which people seem so tenacious as they are about their children. I have sometimes been perfectly astonished at the slowness of sensible Christian parents to allow that their own children are in fault, or deserve blame. There are not a few persons to whom I would far rather speak about their own sins, than tell them their children had done anything wrong.”

J. C. Ryle, *The Duties of Parents*, 2

### 2. Grow with them relationally

### 3. Teach them habits of godliness

## SESSION 2 – PARENTING GOALS FOR EVERY SEASON

### PRE-TEENS & TEENS

#### 1. Live for Christ

“...and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.”

2 Corinthians 5:15

#### 2. Guard the heart

“Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.”

Proverbs 4:23

#### 3. Do not love the world

### FOR PARENTS OF KIDS OF EVERY AGE

#### Trust and obey

#### Work together

#### Pray without ceasing

“Without the blessing of the Lord, your best endeavours will do no good. He has the hearts of all men in His hands, and except He touch the hearts of your children by His Spirit, you will weary yourself to no purpose. Water, therefore, the seed you sow on their minds with unceasing prayer. The Lord is far more willing to hear than we to pray; far more ready to give blessings than we to ask them—but He loves to be entreated for them. And I set this matter of prayer before you, as the top stone and seal of all you do. I suspect the child of many prayers is seldom cast away.”

J. C. Ryle, *The Duties of Parents*, 35