

Parenting With Grace

February 18/19, 2017 - Gary Post

- I. Nobody Teaches Us to Be Parents
- II. Parents' Calling and Job Description (Deut. 6:4-9, 20-25)
 - A. "Teach them diligently to your children..."

Who God is, what He has done for us, why we love Him, who we are in relationship to God and what He requires of us.
 - B. Most important thing we can do is connect our child's heart with God
You could argue that the chief reason God put parents in children's lives is so that they would know him. The most important thing that a child could ever learn about is the existence, character, and plan of God. If you know this fact, it will alter the way you understand and interpret every other fact in your life.
Paul Tripp, Parenting
 - C. Making disciples of our children: The Great Commission
And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
Mathew 28:18-20
It is vital to understand that God has called you to something deeper than to manage, guide, and control your child's behavior. God has called you to be an agent of his rescuing, forgiving, transforming, and delivering grace. You cannot allow yourself to settle for anything less. Paul Tripp, Parenting
- III. What It Means to Be "Lost" and the Need for a New Heart
 - A. The elusive "formula" to produce behavior change in our kids
Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6
 - B. Parental "Power Tools:" Fear, Reward, Guilt and Shame
 - C. What it means to be "lost" and how God rescues us from "lostness"
For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10
"Lost" people have no "God consciousness" or understanding of submission to His authority. They do not have the capability to live and behave in a way that pleases God
All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23
The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it? Jeremiah 17:9
 - D. The root problem—with us and our kids—is the condition of our hearts
Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Psalm 51:5

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:26

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. II Corinthians 5:17

- E. We get a new heart by God's grace when we come to Christ in faith
For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9
- IV. Laying Down the Law and Picking Up On Graceful Parenting
 - A. What is "the law" and what is its role in bringing us to faith in Christ
Therefore, the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. Galatians 3:24-25
 - B. Grace is BOTH free gift of salvation AND empowerment for living
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession, who are zealous for good works. Titus 2:11-12
I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20
 - C. Off with the old self—on with the new self
Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator...Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Colossians 3:9-14
- V. Why Controlling Behavior is Never Enough
 - A. We all love a parade
 - B. Controlling behavior and changing hearts?
Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child... Proverbs 22:15
 1. As parents we need to put in place household rules, and structure, and curfews, and consequences for misbehavior, and say NO when our kids attempt the unsafe or unwise.

VI. How to parent with grace

A. They will believe in the power of God's grace if we model it for them

If God's plan really is to make his invisible grace visible by sending parents of grace to give grace to children who desperately need grace, then I am called not just to preach that grace but to live and model it for my children every day.

Paul Tripp, Parenting

B. Model God's mercy, compassion and love in our every interaction

Here's what mercy means for your parenting: mercy means that every action, reaction, and response toward your children is tempered and shaped by tenderness, understanding, compassion, and love. Parenting is a life-long mission of humbly, joyfully, and willingly giving mercy. Paul Tripp, Parenting

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

Psalm 103:13

In His grace, God has chosen us as unfinished people to parent other unfinished people. He is parenting us while we are parenting them.

C. Use the Word of God to communicate truth, wisdom, and worldview

Your job is to be God's tool for the purpose of forming the image of God's Son in your children. And for that job, the Bible is your primary tool. Your goal is not only that your children would stay inside God's boundaries, but also that they would think about all of life from the perspective of God's Word. In the Bible your children learn who God is, who they are, and what the meaning and purpose of life is.

Paul Tripp, Parenting

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

Ephesians 6:1-4

D. Treat every interaction as an opportunity to share the God's grace

Seldom is change the result of a dramatic moment. So you have partial conversations and unfinished moments, but in each moment you are imparting wisdom to your child, each moment you are exposing your child's heart, each moment you are building your child's self-awareness, each moment you are enlivening your child's conscience, each moment you are giving your child great God-awareness, each moment you are constructing a biblical worldview for your child, and each moment you are giving the Spirit of God an opportunity to do things in and for your child that you cannot do.

Paul Tripp, Parenting

E. Understand that parenting is a process, not an event

"Be patiently committed to process. You have to work to remind yourself that the mission of mercy you've been sent on by God is seldom an event and almost always an extended process... God has called you to a process of many mini-moments of insight that lead to many mini-moments of change."

Paul Tripp, Parenting

Justification is instantaneous, but transformation takes a lifetime

Raising five children sure has taught me a lot. Especially humility! Teach them at a very early age how to cultivate a personal relationship with Jesus. Give them the opportunity to have their own tangible, intimate relationship with him by pointing out "God experiences" all the time, praying with them (and showing them how God answers). Encourage them to trust him. Have them memorize scripture. Then show them these things in your own life. Point out where God is working. Pray. Trust. Show humility. Apologize to them when you need to.

Monica Chester

F. Be faithful in what God has called you to do—leave the results to God

We are responsible to God for being faithful in the process, but not for the results. Only God can produce changed hearts and lives. We need to be deliberate about making time to teach and model well, pray hard and continuously, then leave the results to the only One who calls the dead to life again.

Gary Post

G. It is never too late for God

Push regrets aside and become the parent God calls you to be. God always has enough time to redeem and restore a life. Yours and theirs

VII. Leave a Legacy that Will Last for Eternity

A. Lenegene Brooks: The legacy of a live well-lived

Lenegene Brooks left a legacy of faith that changed the eternal trajectories of generations that will follow her to a time she will not see

B. If you are a parent, you have the same opportunity—there is no higher calling than being appointed by God to be his instruments of transformation and grace in the lives of our kids.

Recommended Resources on Parenting

Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family

Paul David Tripp

Grace Based Parenting

Tim Kimmel

Bringing Up Boys

James Dobson

Bringing Up Girls

James Dobson

Love and Respect in the Family

Emerson and Sarah Eggerich

The 5 Love Languages of Children

Gary Chapman

Boundaries with Kids: When to Say Yes, When to Say No, to Help Your Children Gain Control of Their Lives

Henry Cloud

Grace Based Discipline: How to Be at Your Best When Your Kids Are at Their Worst

Karis Kimmel Murray

Right Now Media video parenting resources (See bulletin insert)

Power of a Praying Parent

Stormie Omartian

Focus on the Family online: www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting