

PARENTING FOR FAITH

INTRODUCTION

No goals

Unworthy goals

Worthy but not ultimate

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY THE GOAL OF PARENTING IS?

Ephesians 6:4

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

The ultimate goal of parenting is **FAITH**. A faith that leads our children to the gospel.

“The central focus of parenting is the **GOSPEL**. You need to direct not simply the behavior of your children, but the attitudes of their hearts.” –Tedd Tripp, *Shepherding a Child's Heart*

PARENTING AT THE HEART LEVEL

The heart is the center of a person: thoughts, feelings, and commitments.

Proverbs 3:1–2

[1] *My son, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments,*
[2] ***for** length of days and years of life
and peace they will add to you.*

“The heart was designed to worship, and if it is not being utilized to worship God, it will worship something else.” –Jeremy Pierre, *The Dynamic Heart in Daily Life*

Proverbs 4:23

*[23] Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.*

“All behavior is linked to attitudes of the heart. Therefore, discipline must address attitudes of the heart. This understanding does marvelous things for discipline. It makes the heart the issue, not just the behavior.” –Tedd Tripp, *Shepherding a Child's Heart*

GOSPEL SATURATED PARENTING

The gospel is a message that has to be embraced at a heart level. The more we **SATURATE** our homes with the gospel, the more the message will begin creating root in the hearts of our children.

God appoints both the end (salvation) and the means (faith in the gospel).

Romans 10:17

[17] So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Can we save our children? No. But can we expose them to the gospel that will save them? **YES!**

THE THREE SPHERES OF GOSPEL SATURATION

(1) Belonging

Psalms 127:3

*[3] Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
the fruit of the womb a reward.*

Children were created by God for his glory; yet he has entrusted them to us on this earth.

Belonging gives children **assurance** that we love and care for them. And with love and care, there is trust.

Yet, **belonging** also comes with a responsibility to submit to the priorities and patterns of the family.

(2) Behaving

“A Biblical approach to children involves two elements that you weave together. One element is rich, **FULL COMMUNICATION**. The other is the **ROD**.” –Tedd Tripp, *Shepherding a Child’s Heart*

Proverbs 23:13–19

*[13] Do not withhold discipline from a child;
if you strike him with a rod, he will not die.*

*[14] If you strike him with the rod,
you will save his soul from Sheol.*

*[15] My son, if your heart is wise,
my heart too will be glad.*

*[16] My inmost being will exult
when your lips speak what is right.*

*[17] Let not your heart envy sinners,
but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day.*

*[18] Surely there is a future,
and your hope will not be cut off.*

*[19] Hear, my son, and be wise,
and direct your heart in the way.*

Communication

Communication reveals the heart

Luke 6:45

*[45] The good person out of the good treasure
of his heart produces good, and the evil
person out of his evil treasure produces evil,
for out of the abundance of the heart his
mouth speaks.*

Communication involves both speaking and
listening, teaching and learning.

There should be times of intentional communication, but most of the communication we'll have with our children will be spontaneous.

The rod

Proverbs 22:15

*[15] Folly is bound up in the heart of a child,
but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.*

The rod is **NOT** an instrument of anger or revenge, but loving discipline.

The rod **SHOULD NOT** be used as a response to personal offense, but as an instrument that imparts wisdom.

Our children are imploring us to tell them where the **LIMITS** of their behaviors are. The rod, used wisely, will tell them what the limits are.

(3) Believing

The end goal of parenting is **FAITH**.

Faith **transforms** at the heart level and **RECONCILES** our children to God.

"I have spoken to many parents who feared they were producing little hypocrites who were proud and self-righteous. Hypocrisy and self-righteousness is the result of giving children a keepable law and telling them to be good. To the extent they are successful, they become like the Pharisees...The genius of Phariseeism was that it reduced the law to a keepable standard of externals that any self-disciplined person could do. In their pride and self-righteousness, they rejected Christ." –Tedd Tripp, *Shepherding a Child's Heart*

Romans 10:10

[10] For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.