

Raising Our Future

Proverbs 22:6

INTRODUCTION

Last week we discussed the role and responsibility of each family member. We looked at the design and infrastructure of the family. We discussed how important family is to the health of our churches, but also to our society and nation.

Today, I want us to consider the idea of Christian parenting in that we are raising our future.

Probably 3 of the most inconsistent aspects of parenting that I see are:

1. **Communication** in the relationship of parenting.
2. **Clarity** in giving clear outlines of expectation.
3. **Commitment** to the task of being a parent.
4. **Consistency** in boundaries, discipline, etc.

Paul David Tripp

“Your belief system or your worldview is always being exposed by how you parent those who have been entrusted to your care ... It is important for all parents to examine the system of belief that shapes their moment-by-moment interactions with their children.”

Adrian Rogers

“Children are truly a blessing from God. Unfortunately, they don’t come with an instruction manual. But there’s no better place to find advice on parenting than the Word of God, which reveals a heavenly Father who loves us and calls us His children. It contains great examples of godly parents. It gives direct instructions on how to parent, and it is filled with many principles we can apply as we strive to be the best parents we can be.”

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

I. Be There Foundation Before You're Their Friend

Notes: _____

Paul David Tripp

“So your hope as a parent is not found in your power, your wisdom, your character, your experience, or your success, but in this one thing alone: the presence of your Lord. The Creator, Savior, Almighty, Sovereign King is with you. Let your heart rest. You are not in this parenting drama alone. Your potential is greater than the size of your weaknesses, because the One who is without weakness is with you, and he does his best work through those who admit that they are weak but in weakness still heed his call.”

II. Grow them to Maturity

Notes: _____

Mind:

- A. Teach your kids not just what to think but how to think.
- B. Help them to process information before arriving at a conclusion.
- C. Play spot the fallacy. Show them truth matters.
- D. Help them to be creative in their discoveries.
- E. Create scenarios where they have to figure things out in a safe way.
- F. Don't just give answers let them arrive at conclusions, and then explain why and how they concluded what they did.

Heart:

- A. Help them understand empathy.
- B. Be a safe place for them to make mistakes, but learn to grow from those mistakes.
- C. Teach them to be aware of others and their situations.
- D. Teach them forgiveness in how you forgive them.
- E. Have conversations on the reality and meaning of love.

Discipline:

- A. Give them the proper push back they need to grow.
- B. Teach them repercussions for actions.
- C. Teach them repercussions for truth ignored.
- D. Teach them pleasure is not the end.
- E. Teach them pain can be a good thing and teaching method.
- F. Be a person they respect discipline from or else rebellion is inevitable .

Tim Kimmel, Why Christian Kids Rebel: Trading Heartache for Hope

“Our children's rebellion is not the problem. It is the symptom. Why they are rebelling is the problem. And unless we address the "why," the external things we do in reaction to their rebellion will not make much of a difference.”

III. Be Their Spiritual Leader

Notes: _____

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

“But the Christian thinks any good he does comes from the Christ-life inside him. He does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us; just as the roof of a greenhouse does not attract the sun because it is bright, but becomes bright because the sun shines on it.”

John Piper

“Parents who do not teach their children to obey God’s appointed authorities prepare them for a life out of step with God’s word — a life out of step with the very gospel they desire to emphasize.”

Billy Graham

“A child who is allowed to be disrespectful to his parents will not have true respect for anyone.

John Wesley

“I learned more about Christianity from my mother than from all the theologians of England.”

IV. Set Boundaries

Notes: _____

Elizabeth Musser, *Words Unspoken*

“God doesn’t want us to rescue our children. He’s the Rescuer.”

John Eldredge, *Love and War: Find the Marriage You’ve Dreamed Of*

“The balancing act we parents attempt is convincing our children:

1. You are loved more than you can imagine.
2. The world does not revolve around you.”

V. Be Their Example

Notes: _____

- A. Show them what a righteous life looks like.
- B. Show them what a good parent looks like.
- C. Show them what a good marriage is.
- D. Show them what a safe place looks like.
- E. Show them how to make good decisions.
- F. Show them how to overcome failure.
- G. Show them how to pray.
- H. Show them what it means to love.
- I. Show them how to forgive.
- J. Show them what it means to live in the grace of Jesus.
- K. Help them find the characteristics of God believable because they see them first already in you.

Tim Allen

“Dad needs to show an incredible amount of respect and humor and friendship toward his mate so the kids understand their parents are sexy, they’re fun, they do things together, they’re best friends. Kids learn by example. If I respect Mom, they’re going to respect Mom.”

CONCLUSION

Paul David Tripp on Parenting

“Many of you are exhausted, discouraged, and frustrated, How about considering a new and better way: the way of grace?”

“We can embrace our inability and not worry our way through our parenting years. Why? Because as parents we serve a gloriously loving and powerful Redeemer. He loves our children infinitely more than we do and as evidence of that love, he has placed them in a family of faith where the story of his love will be heard again and again.”

“Parents, if your eyes ever see or your ears ever hear the sin and weakness of your children, it’s never an accident, it’s never a hassle, it’s never an interruption; it’s always grace.”

Genny Monchamp

“Show your children God’s love by loving them and others as Christ loves you. Be quick to forgive, don’t hold a grudge, look for what’s best, and speak gently into areas of their lives that need growth.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt

“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”