

FOUNDATIONS FOR BIBLICAL PARENTING

I. Introduction – We will talk about 6 foundational principles that are essential to biblical parenting.

- “Counseling (teaching on marriage and parenting) – no magic, no technique, no sure cure. Biblical counseling (personal ministry) is simply the way of speaking wisely with moral decision makers who will trust and obey either lies or truth” (David Powlison, *Speaking the Truth in Love* pg. 53).

II. The Scriptures are _____ for the task of parenting
(2 Tim. 3:14-17; Psalm 1:1-3; Psalm 19:7-9).

III. Children are a _____ from the Lord – Psalm 127.

IV. The responsibility of raising children has been assigned to _____; not the government, not the school system, and not the church or youth pastor (Psalm 78:1-8).

V. The goal of our parenting is to _____ God by raising our children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (2 Cor. 5:9, 1 Cor. 10:31, Eph. 6:4).

VI. The task of parenting in its most basic element is to provide biblical _____
 _____ without exasperating our children (Ephesians 6:1-4).

A. If you faithfully teach your children the Scriptures, discipline them consistently, and love them no matter what they do . . . you have parented biblically.

B. Biblical Discipline

1. It is not: _____ by itself – Eph. 6:4, Read Proverbs 29:15. *Discipline really functions as the avenue whereby your instruction has weight and your children will listen to what you have to say.*
2. It is not: _____ – that is God’s job (Romans 12:19).
 - Punishment looks to the past, while biblical discipline looks to the future. *When I discipline to make a child pay for his or her past offense I am almost certainly going to do it in anger and that is when child abuse happens.*
3. _____ and essential, and includes spanking.
 - a. Proverbs 23:13-14 and Proverbs 13:24.
 - b. 1 Kings 1:6 – David never restrained or displeased his sons and Adonijah rebelled against him and try to overthrow him as King.
4. It must be _____ (especially when children are young).
 - “We used to observe cyclical patterns in the behavior of our children. Every few months, they would become unruly. They weren’t in actual rebellion, but their obedience was sluggish . . . We would redouble our efforts . . . We would return to basics – speaking once and expecting obedience – disciplining if obedience was not forthcoming. Overnight, our home would become peaceful again. One day it dawned on us! We produce the cycles. (Tedd Tripp, *Shepherding a Child’s Heart* pg. 147).

C. Biblical Instruction

1. The _____ (Psalm 145:5).
 - a. God is _____ (James 4:5; Revelation 21:3).
 - b. God is _____ (Psalm 71:22; Revelation 4:8).
 - c. God is _____ (Psalm 145:9; Exodus 33:18-19).
 - d. God is _____ (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:20).
 - e. God is _____ (Psalm 115:3; Romans 8:28-29; 1 Tim. 6:15).
2. God's _____ (Matthew 5:48).
 - “The focal point of your discipline and correction must be your children seeing their utter inability to do the things that God requires unless they know the help and strength of God” (Tedd Tripp, *Shepherding a Child's Heart* pg. 123).
3. Your child's _____ (Romans 3:9-10, 23; 7:21-25; Eph. 2:1-3).
4. The Gospel – 4 words to guide you through the gospel.
 - a. _____ (Gen. 3).
 - b. _____ (Isaiah 59:2).
 - c. _____ (John 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:21)
 - d. _____ (John 1:12; Acts 2:21; Romans 10:9).

D. Do not _____ – if you wonder if you struggle here, consider purchasing “The Heart of Anger” by Lou Priolo. He has a chapter in which he lists 25 common ways parents exasperate their children.

VII. The overarching theme of our parenting is to _____
so that we can influence them with the gospel we proclaim (Proverbs 23:26a).

VIII. Conclusion.

IX. Discussion Questions

A. What did you find most helpful or encouraging from this talk?

B. What did you find most convicting from this talk?

C. What is your reaction to the statement the Bible equips us for the task of parenting and when do you find it most challenging to believe it/live it out?

D. Evaluate your own parenting – what do you spend the most time focusing on when thinking about or interacting with your kids? Does anything need to change in this regard?

