

BIBLICAL PARENTING

18 August 2021 | Week 2: The Disciple-Making Parent | Text Questions: 317-798-0661

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” – Eph. 6:4

*“Train up a child in the way he should go – but be sure you go that way yourself”
– Charles Spurgeon*

*“If the home is to be a means of grace it must be a place of rules...the alternative to rule is not freedom but the unconstitutional (and often unconscious) tyranny of the most selfish member”
– C.S. Lewis*

I. Case Study & Review

II. The Disciple-Making Parent

1) Every child is being disciplined

2) Parents are responsible for the discipleship of their children

*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, ²⁰ **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.** And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” – Matt. 28:19-20*

Parental Discipleship: leading your children to know and trust Jesus through discipline and instruction in the Lord

3) Fathers are to lead in discipleship

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." - Eph. 6:4

An overseer... must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? - I Tim. 3:4

II. The Disciple-Making Parent Disciplines Their Children in the Lord

1) Biblical discipline is NOT:

a. A list of creative punishments to deter bad behavior

b. Embarrassment insurance

c. A quick fix

d. Done in anger

A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention. - Prov. 15:18

...for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. - James 1:20

e. Optional

*Whoever spares the rod hates his son,
but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him - Prov. 13:24*

2) Biblical Discipline is:

a. Proof we are true children

In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

*"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reproved by him.*

*⁶For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives."*

⁷It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. – Heb. 12:5-11

b. Comes from a heart of love (Heb. 12:6)

c. Addresses the heart not just right behavior (Lk. 6:45)

*"Discipline is not about compliance but about repentance" – Russell Moore, *The Storm-Tossed Family*, pg. 237*

d. Painful & unpleasant (Heb. 12:11)

e. A privilege

3) Three Clarifying Comparisons

a. Discipline vs. Punishment

b. Shepherd vs. Judge

About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹²For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, ¹³for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. – Heb. 5:11-14

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

*¹⁴For he knows our frame;
he remembers that we are dust. – Ps. 103:13-14*

4) Rewards vs. Bribes

*(The law of the Lord)
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.
¹¹Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward. – Psalm 19:10-11*

*A bribe is like a magic stone in the eyes of the one who gives it;
wherever he turns he prospers. – Prov. 17:8*

*The wicked accepts a bribe in secret
to pervert the ways of justice. – Prov. 17:23*

III. The Disciple-Making Parent Instructs Their Children in the Lord

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. - Deut. 6:5-9

Family Discipleship: *"leading your home by doing whatever you can whenever you can to help your family become friends and followers of Jesus Christ" - Matt Chandler, Family Discipleship*

1) Teaching through modeling

Modeling: serving as a godly example for your family, living out your genuine walk with God, and demonstrating true repentance where and when you fall short

Fathers and mothers, do not forget that children will learn more by eye that they do by the ear.... Imitation is a far stronger principle with children than memory. What they see has a much stronger effect on their minds that what they are told. Take care, then, what you do before your child" - J.C. Ryle

2) Teaching through family discipleship time

Family Discipleship Time: *Creating intentional time built into the families rhythm for the purpose of thinking about, talking about, and living out the gospel*

3) Teaching through family discipleship moments

Family Discipleship Moments: *Capturing and leveraging opportunities in the course of everyday life for the purpose of gospel-centered conversations*

4) Teaching through family discipleship milestones

Family Discipleship Milestones: Marking and making occasions to celebrate and commemorate significant spiritual milestones of God's word in the life of the family and child

IV. The Disciple-Making Parent Trusts God Through Faithful Effort

*Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it. - Prov. 22:6*

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. - Gal. 6:7-9

Discipline your son, for there is hope; - Prov. 19:18a

CASE STUDIES

Week #2 Case Study: Preschool

It's the first day of kindergarten for your 5-year-old son who has never gone to formal schooling before. Ever since he was an infant, he has always struggled with getting dropped off in the church children's program and rarely leaves your side in big crowds. He is socially shy but is a very different kid at home where he is clearly more comfortable. You've done everything you can think of to prepare him for his first day, (playdates with classmates, preview of the school, discussing what to expect, etc.) but when you pull up to the school he refuses to get out. He starts to cry and whimpers that he is scared and doesn't want you to leave. In addition, the school drop-off line is getting backed up and the parents behind you are looking impatient.

Questions:

- 1) What does it look like to faithfully shepherd your child's heart in this situation?
- 2) How can you address his behavior and his heart? What do you think would be unfaithful parenting in this moment?
- 3) What gospel truths do you need to remember for yourself in this moment?

Week #2 Case Study: School-age

Your family has owned a beloved dog named Sparky for more than twelve years. Your kids Jake (8) and Aubrey (6) have not known family life without this dog. Unfortunately, Sparky's vet announced he has only a few months to live. After you tell them the sad news, Your daughter asks you after you tell them the sad news, "Will we see Sparky in heaven?" Your son immediately turns to his sister and harshly says "no silly, dogs don't go to heaven" causing her to well up with tears and cry.

Discussion Questions:

1. How would address both children in this situation? How does considering each child's "frame" change the way you address them?
2. What gospel truths do you need to remember before and after addressing each child?

Week #2 Case Study: Teenager

You and your spouse worked hard over the last few years to save up enough money to send your teenager to a private Christian school. She has just completed her first week and comes to you one evening and tells you that one of the students in her class told her that she is bisexual. Your daughter then asks, "I thought that at a Christian school all the students were supposed to follow what the Bible says. Doesn't the Bible say that it is wrong?"

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you answer her question? What are some of the different topics that you would need to instruct your daughter to understand?
2. What gospel truths do you need to remember before and after addressing your daughter?
3. What are the preparation topics you may have wanted to instruct your daughter in before a situation like this comes up?

Resources Cited & Recommended

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