

The Goal of Parenting
Biblical Soul-Care Workshops

Week 9
Session 1

THE GOSPEL INSTITUTE

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Cultural Definitions of a Parent

1. Noun - One who begets, gives birth to, or nurtures and raises a child; a father or mother. (Yahoo Education)
2. Noun - A father or mother; he or she that produces young. (Webster's 1828)
3. *A family is love. Love that you feel for yourself. An individual living alone is therefore a family...if they feel love for their 'self'. Thus an individual and its 'self' in love is a family.*

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Cultural Definitions of Parenting

Verb

1. To act as a parent to; raise and nurture
2. To cause to come into existence; originate. (Yahoo Education)
3. The duties of parents to their children are to **maintain, protect and educate them** (Webster's 1828, emphasis mine)

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Cultural Definitions of Parenting

1. Parenting (or **child rearing**) is the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development of a child from **infancy to adulthood**. Parenting refers to the aspects of raising a child aside from the biological relationship.
2. The goals of human parenting are debated. Usually, **parental figures** provide for a child's physical needs, protect them from harm, and impart in them skills and cultural values until they reach legal adulthood, usually after adolescence. (Wikipedia)

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Re-defining Parenting and Family

1. Understanding parenting begins with understanding the family.
2. Understanding the family begins with understanding marriage.
3. Understanding marriage and family must begin with understanding the the origin and purpose of human life, i.e. a biblical anthropology.

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Biblical Anthropology

Reflector (made <i>in the image of God</i>)
Relational being (vertical, internal, horizontal, external)
Receiver (needing God's <i>Special Revelation</i>)
Reasoning being (Logical, rational, considering)
Responder – a worshipping being by nature (capable of awe/fear, love, obedience, work/service)
Righteous (pure, without sin; Gen.2:25)
Reliant being (dependant, NOT AUTONOMOUS)
Ruler (a <i>“Dominion-haver”</i>) (Gen. 1:28)
Representative (Ambassador) (2 Cor.5:14-21)

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Purpose of Life

- Intelligent, but incomplete; never intended to understand himself or his world **apart from God's Special Revelation**
- Adam didn't know ...
 - His Identity (Who am I?)
 - His beginning (O. Origin)
 - His Purpose (M. Meaning)
 - How to live (E. Ethics)
 - His future (G. Going)
 - God (A. Authority)
 - His Needs (what do I **NEED**?)



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Special Revelation and the Family

1. Before sin, Adam didn't know vital, profound truths about himself and his world and was unable to know them apart from God's Special Revelation because he was _____
2. Because of the Fall, children are deprived from birth, incapable of seeing, understanding, knowing, discerning basic truths of life.
3. The family is God's primary training/teaching institution to provide the discipleship-environment to transfer biblical truth from one generation to the next.

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Goal #1 – Culture of Discipleship

1. Providing stability and security through a male-female, one-flesh, covenant-relationship to create a loving environment and visually demonstrate the character of God.
2. A daily "classroom" to foster loving relationships
3. Guards against the break-up of the family.
4. Shaping the next generation with the truths from Special Revelation that which cannot be learned from *General Revelation*.

The family is God's primary for training and instructing human hearts to worship the God that created them.

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Goal #2 – Discipling the Next Generation

1. Physically – providing, training, developing
2. Emotionally – modeling, teaching, shaping
3. Relationally – modeling intimacy, care concern; teaching, nurturing, admonishing
4. Mentally - cognition, instructing, modeling
5. Spiritually – shepherding a heart of worship

Without structured nurturing and disciplined training, children become more efficient self-worshippers.

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Goal #2 – Discipling the Next Generation

- If a perfect man in a perfect world didn't know
 1. His Identity (Who am I?)
 2. His beginning (O. Origin)
 3. His Purpose (M. Meaning)
 4. How to live (E. Ethics)
 5. His future (G. Going)
 6. God (A. Authority)
 7. His Needs (what do I **NEED**?)

Your child will be ruined if they don't get this!!
Your goals and responsibilities haven't changed since the beginning! You much TEACH!

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Goal #2 – 5 Discipling Doctrines

Parental goals are the same as the First Parents!
daily, consistently teaching our children making disciples, developing worshippers

in (but not limited to) the following key doctrines:

1. T. Theology (view of God)
2. E. Epistemology (source of Truth)
3. A. Anthropology (biblical view of their nature)
4. C. Christology (knowing Christ as superior)
5. H. Hamartiology (view of sin, conviction of sin)

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Focus of Parenting – the Heart of the Child

Idolatry thrives without heart-transformation

Jer. 17:5-10; Ps. 1

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T.E.A.C.H. Theology

- Who God is – Real, personal, S.H.A.L.O.M.E.
- What God does – works, saves, comforts, blesses, forgives
- What God says – His Truth shapes PERSPECTIVES
- What are God's PURPOSES for His kingdom & for you/them
- What God expects – Instructing, discipling children to LEARN from life-experiences – Shepherding a biblical RESPONSE from the HEART (Pr. 4:23)
- F. Fear God (Deut. 6:2, 13)
- L. Love God and others (Deut. 6:5)
- O. Obey God, practical application of theology (Deut. 6:6, 25)
- W. Worship God, living in Awe (Deut. 26:10)
- S. Serve and Please God vs. self and/or others. (Deut. 6:13)

The goal of parenting – nurture a theological community
teach your children to worship GOD.

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T.E.A.C.H. Epistemology

1. Demonstrate that God's Word is superior to man's wisdom - know your own source of truth
2. Teach discernment – shepherding a biblical, "Google-search" mindset of thinking biblically, wisely, logically.
3. Demonstrate and teach wisdom in decision-making

You must choose to learn the Truth, love the Truth live the Truth, in order to define, and teach the Truth.

The goal of parenting
nurture a biblical, philosophical community.

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T.E.A.C.H. Anthropology

1. View of self/man/ identity - made in the image of God; significant, not "special"; reflecting God's character with dignity and purpose, not self-centered.
2. Made of dust, but fearfully and wonderfully made
3. No intrinsic value, but loved of God, because God chooses to LOVE, NOT because of me.
4. Called to Love God and others, NOT to love myself.

The goal of parenting
nurture a biblically sound social community;
Intentionally interacting in 4 dimensions,
vertical, internal, horizontal and external.

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T.E.A.C.H. Christology

1. Make much of Christ's sinless life, perfect sacrificial death, (dbl. imputation); the Gospel.
2. Model and teach His humility, compassion, meekness, etc.; i.e. the 5 Love-Languages of JC
 - a. Self-denial – don't make your kids your slaves
 - b. Submission – show your own submission to authority
 - c. Service – show willingness to serve God and others
 - d. Suffering – demonstrate cheerful suffering
 - e. Sacrifice – demonstrate self-sacrificing love

The goal of parenting
Nurture a Christ-centered
environment of grace, mercy and redemption.

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T.E.A.C.H. Hamartiology

1. Define sin biblically - "call sin sin"(Is. 5:20)
2. Teach that God hates sin and judges sin righteously (Ps.7:11)
3. Hate sin (Ps. 97:10)
4. Confront sin (Ps. 66:18; Mt. 18:15)
5. Confess sin (Ps. 51: 1 Jn. 1:9)
6. Forgive sin (Mt. 18:23-35); don't keep records of sins (1 Cor. 13:5)

The goal of parenting
Nurture a redemption community that admits sins,
confronts sin, confesses sin and forgives sin.
Shepherd yourself and your children to live this way.

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Goal #3 – Make Disciples Who ...(Mt. 28:18-20)

1. Worship God in Spirit and Truth (Jn. 4:24)
2. Who do all to the Glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31)
3. Who's aim is to please God (2 Cor. 5:9; Rom. 15:1)
4. Who think and act *like their Master* (Lu. 6:40)
5. Who are growing (Col. 1:28; Eph. 4:12-14) in obedience... imitating God (Eph. 4:1-3, 5:1-3; 6:1-3).
6. Are growing in their ability to make disciples (Lu.6:40)

*You will not be able to teach your children what you don't know, believe and live.
Only disciples can make disciples!*

The goal of parenting – make disciple-makers

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Failure to Pursue God's Goals for the Family

Is the result of parental idolatry.

I can't do that, he might throw a fit...

I want my kids to be happy...

They shouldn't have to do that...

I don't have time for this...

It's just a phase, it will pass...

I want her to have a good time, be popular...

I just want him to have friends...



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Failure to Pursue God's Goals for the Family

Fosters idolatry in the children

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all **ungodliness** and **unrighteousness** of men, who by their unrighteousness **suppress the truth**. For what can be known about God is **plain to them**, because God has shown it to them.
(Rom. 1:18-19)



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Failure to Pursue God's Goal for the Family

And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the LORD had done for Israel...Joshua..., the servant of the LORD, died...And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel. And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger. They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroath. (Jud 2:7-13)

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Success in Parenting

1. Is defined by your obedience
2. Is not determined by outcomes
3. You can always choose to obey, even when/if your child does not.
4. The perfect parent, in a perfect Garden had wayward children...what causes you to expect that your children will be perfect?