

What Did You Expect?

Redeeming the Realities of
Parenting

September 7, 2014

Parenting

- A basic relationship in life
 - Not as intimate or as long-lasting as marriage, but another fundamental means of sanctification
- Children are a gift from God and a reward – blessed is the man who has many (Psalm 127:3-5)
- Children are like olive plants around a table for a faithful man (Psalm 128:3)
- **So why sometimes can it be so hard and frustrating to raise kids?**

Parenting

- Remember what we've learned about marriage relationships?
 - Kingdoms in conflict – first within ourselves and then between other people
 - Flawed people in a fallen world (but a faithful God)
 - Wars arise because others get in the way of our desires
 - Selfishness dehumanizes others – makes them either vehicles or obstacles

Being a Parent

- The heart of the matter is the matter of the heart
- Parents need to have their heart changed first
 - Must understand it's a matter of worship
 - Who's on the throne?
 - What gets you excited – for good and bad?
 - Apple-nailing doesn't work - in marriage or parenting
 - It just doesn't last

Being a Parent

- Ephesians 6:4
 - *“And you fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”*
- Deuteronomy 6:7
 - *“You shall teach them (these words) diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you shall rise up.”*

Being a Parent

- How do you see your children?
 - People that share your home for ~20 years then leave?
 - Irritations?
 - Financial drains?
 - Time and energy consumers?
 - Objects of pride?
 - Sources of shame?
 - People made in God's image that must be disciplined in Christ?
 - Sources of joy?
 - Future of the world?
 - Future of the church?
 - Brothers and sisters in Christ?
 - Means of sanctification for you?
- No one is ever in only one camp or the other

Being a Parent

- Love your children like God has loved you
 - With grace, mercy, discipline – these are not opposites
- Bring them up like Jesus: He matured in wisdom, stature, favor of God, and favor of men (Luke 2:52)
- Train them in the Bible's story
 - What God is like and what He requires
- Train them to be an adult
 - You're not raising children, but adults

Keeping Your Children on Your Team

- Recognize your children are gifts from God
- Let them see your unwavering devotion to God
- Show an interest in their future and be willing to invest in their future
- Make sure they feel loved and accepted at home
- Teach the importance of prayer and Scripture
- Set loving limitations for their protection
- Teach them they have a responsibility to develop their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and their dependence on Him

DQ Time

- Analyze this situation from a biblical frame of reference, and decide what should be done. Explain your answer and support with Bible verses or principles:

John and Joan's 17 year old son went to a party with friends from school. They learned from other parents that there was alcohol at the party. The son has been showing signs of apathy towards school and spiritual things over the last year or so. Joan is livid and wants to ground the son and take away privileges, and confronted the son before John came home from work. John says it's best to just talk to the son, but not ground him – and is angry Joan confronted the son. He lets her know this in front of their son. Their disagreement is heated. What should they do?

DQ Time

- Rebellion for the last year or so should have been dealt with earlier
 - Poor friend choices?
 - Better late than never – start dealing with it now!
- Too much anger here – Joan and John both
- Joan should have waited until John came home
- John shouldn't contradict Joan in front of the son - parents must present united position with children
 - Must have each other's back
- Before confronting son, they need to talk and agree on course of action

Next week

- Shepherding a Child's Heart
- Book by Tedd Tripp as source material
- Foundations for child rearing
 - Children are the product of:
 - Shaping influences: Physical make-up and life experiences
 - Godward orientation: Response to shaping influences
- Shepherding through the stages
 - Infancy, childhood, teenagers

Review of Session 8

Reflections on John 4

- You can only love properly by God's grace
- What does this statement mean:
Love rescues from love so that you would be able to love
The God who is love sent the son of His love in order to rescue you from self love so that you would be able to love
- What were the "Goldfish on a leash" and "Poodle in an aquarium" stories intended to illustrate?
- "We love, because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19)
- True love is not formed out of duty, it is formed out of thankfulness; true thankfulness is rooted in worship