

# What Did You Expect?

Redeeming the Realities of  
**Parenting**

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# Parenting

- Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp
- Merely modifying behavior isn't enough – children's hearts must be changed
  - Condemnable, not commendable (like the Pharisees who honored God with their lips, but not their hearts)
  - Proverbs 4:23
  - Luke 6:45
- Two children fighting over the same toy
  - Who had it first? **Or,**
  - Both have heart issues and only care for own happiness
- Must engage children, not just reprove them
  - Help them to see that the attitude of their heart produced their sinful behavior

# Foundations for Child Rearing

## Shaping Influences

- Events and circumstances in the developmental years that make the child the person he or she is
  - Scripture presupposes this to be true (Deut. 6, Eph. 6)
- Structure of Family Life
  - Number of parents/children in the home, generations in the home, birth order, relationship between children
- Family Values
  - View of God, family rules, philosophies and ideas, what's worth a fuss?, people being more important than things, family boundaries (secrets, relationships, etc.)

# Foundations for Child Rearing

## Shaping Influences

- Family Roles
  - Breadwinner, involved father, bill payer
- Family Conflict Resolution
  - Blow up or clam up?, talk or walk away?, Biblical principal or power
- Family Response to Failure
  - Mocking of failure or praise for worthy efforts
- Family History
  - Money, health, social stability, geographic stability

# Foundations for Child Rearing

## Shaping Influences

- Shaping influences are not deterministic
  - Childrearing is more than providing the best possible influences
  - False to believe that to protect, shelter, be positive, Christian education, etc. and it will all be well
- Children are not passive receivers, but active responders
  - Ever wonder about different outcomes in the same family?
- Determinism may lead parents to believe that troublesome young adult is due to their failure
  - May be plenty of parent mistakes, but the child chose to sin

# Foundations for Child Rearing

## Godward Orientation

- Godward orientation determines the response to the shaping influences
  - Proverbs 9:7-10
- Everybody worships something
  - Either respond to God in faith, or suppress the truth and worship the “creation” (Romans 1)
  - Children aren’t religiously neutral (Psalm 51:5, 58:3)
- Children respond to shaping influences in either faith, love, and trust in God or idolatry and self-reliance
  - Problem isn’t lack of maturity, but selfishness and rebellion
- Joseph - classic example of proper response (Gen 50)

# Foundations for Child Rearing Authority

- God established parental authority – we must take it because we are under God’s authority!
- Act as God’s agent in the child’s life by giving discipline - not punitive, but corrective (Heb. 12:5-7)
  - Enforce God’s standards, not our own
  - Discipline leads to life (Proverbs 6:23)
  - Failure to discipline leads to death (Proverbs 19:18)
- The child benefits by submitting to God’s authority (through the parent) and gains understanding for life (Proverbs 15:32)

# Foundations for Child Rearing Goals

- Successful children, but defined by what?
- Goals that may have an unbiblical focus
  - Special skills – sports, music, art, etc.
  - Good education and good job
  - Psychological – “well adjusted,” not “spoiled,” etc.
  - Saved – maybe or maybe not, but the parents job is the same
  - Well behaved – should be a secondary benefit, otherwise manners become a means of manipulation
- Biblical goal – WSC Q.1
  - Glorifying God puts the right focus on goals

# Foundations for Child Rearing Methods

- Communication
  - Instruction, warning, encouragement
  - Entreaty, correction, rebuke
  - Talk and listen – draw out what is in their heart
    - Understanding of their thoughts and needs
  - Appeal to the conscience with a focus on sinners needing redemption
- The Rod
  - All earthly punishment presupposes a judgment day
  - Foolishness is in the heart of the child (Proverbs 22:15)
  - The rod gives wisdom (Proverbs 29:15)
- Communication and the rod work together
  - Children need to be known and understood AND need clear and predictable limits that are enforced

# Shepherding Through the Stages

- Infancy to Childhood (Birth – 5 years)
  - Individual under authority – Eph. 6:1-3
    - Obedience without challenge, without excuse, without delay
  - Consistently discipline disobedience (defiant behavior)
- Childhood (5-12 years)
  - Character development
    - Address behavior that is “wrong,” e.g., selfishness
  - Focus on heart and motives – not just keeping rules
- Teenage (13-18)
  - Fear of the Lord, adherence to parental instruction, disassociation with the wicked (Proverbs 1:7-19)
  - Embrace the things of God as their own faith
- Through the stages, the goal is to exercise less authority and more influence
  - Requirement to obey vs. willingness to trust

# DQ Time

- **Analyze this situation – what should be done? Applicable Bible verses or principles?**

Philip and Ruth have 4 children, ages 17 to 7. Steven who is 17 is responsible, self-motivated, and tender-hearted. He has a full schedule with school and a part-time job. The 16 year old, Fred, is exactly opposite of Steven, and shows a callousness towards God. The 12 year old, Peter, looks up to Steven, but is relentlessly bullied by Fred for being a do-gooder and a suck-up. The 7 year old, Josie, has learning difficulties. Ruth is homeschooling the youngest 3 children, but can hardly get through a day without Fred wrecking havoc with his bad behavior and aggravation of the younger children.

Ruth is at her wits end and while Philip is sympathetic, his job requires long hours and travel. Since he has limited time at home he doesn't want to be as firm with Fred (and the others) as Ruth wants. He doesn't want to be in "confrontation mode" in the little time he has at home.

What should they do?

# DQ Time

- Fred's rebellion should have been dealt with earlier – but start now!
  - Address his sin in appeals to his conscience.
- Consider sending Fred to Christian day school
  - But they can't fix him and he may find other rebels
- Philip must fulfill his responsibility
  - Limited home time is no excuse for inaction or weak action toward Fred's rebellion
  - Reinforce Peter's positive desires