

Parenting Strategies You Need in Your Home

I. How do we need to renew our minds about communication?

- None of us think as well as we should.
- None of us communicate as well as we should.
- This means that we must be willing to consider a completely different way of communicating when illustrated in Scripture — even if they're different, seemingly awkward, or hard.
- That's how we should think about this. So, let me ask you, are you willing to allow the biblical example we're going to study today to conform your communication?

II. What do we need to put off in our parental communication?

- Social media and texting have made it impossible — or at least awkward — to write anything more than a short paragraph. Normally, a word or two or an emoji will suffice.
- All forms of mass communication are also being affected. Entertainment isn't mirroring the culture so much as it exaggerates it for dramatic or comedic effect. Therefore, all of our poor communication is fed back to us in hyperbolic form, and then we copy it trying to appear cooler, and then the entertainment takes that new extreme and exaggerates it even more. And the cycle continues.
- Too often we think things have to be what they are simply because they are what they are. We regularly argue that something is the best simply because it's what we're already comfortable doing. We rarely consider that what we do *may not be the best* and desperately needs to change.
- We also need to put off our frenetic frenzy that deludes us into thinking we don't have enough time to say what needs to be said the way it needs to be said.

III. What do we need to put on in our parental communication?

- **The Value of Stories**
 - According to a [Common Sense Media](#) survey, on average, American 8-to-12-year-olds spend 4 hours and 44 minutes on screen media each day. And teens average 7 hours and 22 minutes — not including time spent using screens for school or homework.
 - Consider this . . . God didn't give us a theology textbook. He communicated all the divine Truth we would need to live this life successfully to his honor and glory . . . via a story.
 - God wired us and our children to learn by story. Imagine how we could potentially multiply the efficacy of our parenting simply by utilizing more story modes.
- **The Nature of a Parable**
 - It's helpful to see the following words as all tied to the same idea: parables, illustrations, analogies, metaphors, object lessons, similes, and morality tales (like Aesop's Fables).
 - A parable takes an esoteric or purely conceptual idea and translates it into a practical picture that can be more easily understood. This works for children as well as it does for adults.
 - When Jesus wanted to illustrate how God has given each of us a spiritual purpose and that He expects us to put in the effort to capitalize on that spiritual purpose.

- Explanation **The Difficulty of Parables**
 - Most of us weren't taught to do it, and we didn't have good examples of it growing up.
 - As mentioned earlier, too often this way of communicating seems archaic, so we avoid it in exchange for more "contemporary" and "trendy" talk.
 - It takes more time. In the illustration of the servants and the master, I could have easily said, *"Children, God has given each of us a spiritual purpose. We need to work hard to discover and accomplish that purpose."* Jeremiah could have told the Jews that they had become to God like a worthless waistband. But it takes longer — sometimes much longer — to tell a compelling, educational story.
 - It's difficult to create a powerful and applicable parable when you're not used to thinking in word pictures.
- But given the fact that I Corinthians 10:31 is still in the Bible, then we have to accept that everything worth doing is worth doing the best we can do the glory of God.
- God has given us precious lives to bring up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We'll attend boring conferences in order to be better equipped in our jobs. We'll even pour over lists and lists of stats to fill out our fantasy brackets to the best of our ability.
- How about we put some extra time into learning how to utilize a communication tactic that Jesus used so effectively.
- Let's not allow the superficial difficulties to discourage us from pursuing this parenting strategy.