

Parenting Zombie Terrorists

I. Realize that God has not called you to change your kids; He's called you to be an Ambassador of His Truth.

- In Matthew 10:28 Jesus said, *“Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”*
- Don't fear your kids. What's the worst they can do? However, you need to fear God. He's the Almighty, Creator God. His will is the only will. To defy God in order to assuage your kids will never work in your favor, and it will only set your kids up for more failure.

II. Create a new paradigm during a time of peace.

- If you can establish Truth and rhythm during times of little to no confrontation, you can use those as touchstones when confrontation comes.
- Your child who's not currently in trouble will find it pretty easy to agree with the biblical data concerning the role of consequences in their lives. But try to convince them of that when they're rolling around in their sin . . . good luck. So, if you need to stop negotiating with your terrorist, you need to have that talk before their next terror attack.
- Explain to them God's expectations for obedience and discipline. Explain your own disobedience to God by not following His will but instead catering to your child. Apologize to your children for not loving God and them enough to do the hard thing.
- Then explain to your child what you hope to do the next time there's an infraction. Step them through the script — if I can put it that way — of how you're going to address the sinful behavior and how you're going to consequence it, and what you're going to have to do in addition to that if the child presumes to manipulate you with terror.
- If you teach this to your child from the Bible in a kind, loving way, it will be hard for them to disagree with your plan. They may not like it, but then their problem is with God, not you.

III. Stick to the plan.

- Make a plan, communicate it to your children, pray before you enter the confrontation, get as much help as you can from your spouse, pastor, and Parenting Community, and stick to the plan.
- The best course of action is to over teach before there's an issue, so that when it comes time to reprove, you won't have to focus too much on the teaching element, but on the actual reproof.

IV. Trust God to deal with your child as you submit to His plan for your parenting.

- The main reason we struggle trusting God with our kids is that we're not trusting Him in our parenting. If you can't trust God to guide your parenting, how on earth are you going to trust Him with the product of your parenting.
- Not only do you not trust God with your kids because you're not trusting Him with your parenting, I think we also don't trust that our kids will turn out well because deep inside we know we're not parenting as well as we should. God gave us a conscience, and the more of His light to which we've been exposed, the easier it is for us to experience good shame when we know we're not parenting as God has called and commanded us.