

The Point of (nearly) Every Conversation

I. We must always be speaking God's Truth to our kids.

- Deuteronomy 6; Romans 11:36; Colossians 1:16-18; I Corinthians 10:31
- This is counter-intuitive primarily because we imagine that so much of our parenting seems so completely detached from all things spiritual. Potty-training, report cards, drivers-ed, meals, chores, soccer games, bed time, playing Uno, and the plethora of — can I say it — earthly things would have us believe that the spiritual stuff is somehow foreign in those categories.
- That's a gigantic lie of Satan.
- Deuteronomy 6 — which is just one passage of the many that leave us with the impression that the Truth of God should ever be on our lips — I believe all of these passages are setting the high biblical expectation that we constantly speak the language of heaven.

II. What does always speaking God's Truth to our kids look like?

- We waste our parenting when it's rooted in something other than God and His Truth. That doesn't mean we always have to quote Scripture and cite catechisms and speak on theological things. There are three levels to this:
 - All of our parenting must be motivated by a desire to glorify God. This will demand that not only our motivation but also our methods be Scriptural.
 - This can be as simple as wanting our children to play kindly on their game system.
 - But, don't fool yourself. Just because you use words like "kind" and "nice" doesn't mean your children are understanding the expectation that they obey God for His glory. You're going to have to explain to your children Who God is and what His expectations are and what those look like in our lives and how to have a relationship with Him in order for them to have a proper understanding of biblical kindness.
 - There's really no reason most of our teaching and training shouldn't intentionally speak of God and His Word. Do we really want our kids obeying us out of fear for us? Do we want them worshipping us? If not, then we need to motivate their obedience correctly — in a relationship with God.
 - However all of our reproof and counsel needs to be infused with biblical Truth. We can't do a good job of persuading our children that they've sinned without referencing the Bible, and we can't provide them good counsel for how to stop sinning and how to start being righteous without it.
- We risk wasting our parenting when we don't draw our children to a decision.
 - Help your child have the right motivation for their obedience.
 - Help them understand how they can apply the Truth they've learned.
 - Draw your children to a place where they either accept or reject the Truth.
 - This one step of verifying that your child has accepted what you have taught them has potentially given you a glimpse into their hearts as well as made it very hard for them to argue in the event they break the rule in the future.
 - They've totally agreed with you that God's and your expectations are right and good and acceptable and that if they don't obey they're sinning against their Creator. It's really hard to say that one minute and deny it the next. It's one simple step that can empower our parenting in amazing ways.
 - When you do so, you see their heart, you get their buy-in, and you make parenting through their disobedience that much easier because they already understand the implications of their sin.