

Parenting Trends 2020

I. “Less Judgement, More Support”

- The obvious biblical answer is that we desperately need to be speaking into each other’s lives. God created us to thrive in community. We need counsel. We need truth in love. We need admonishment and rebuke. We need one-anothering.
- Face-to-face, life-on-life versions of community are the absolute best. Your local body of believers needs to be discipling and mentoring each other in this way. “*But, who do I trust to open up my life and parenting to?*” you may ask. That is the question of the decade.
 - It used to be a pregnant mommy had her mother and sisters and grandmother and aunts around to help her and teach her. Today we don’t have that, and it’s very sad. That makes the local body of believers that much more important.
 - Here’s the key, it needs to be someone humble enough to submit to God’s plan and pursue it. It may be a great start to find other parents in your church who listen to this podcast. At least then you know you’re all on the same page.

II. “The End of Gender-Focused Parenting”

- It does *not* please the Lord to separate your child’s gender ideology from their biological sex. So, on one side we need to prepare our kids for the cultural onslaught concerning gender. They need to be comfortable in their bodies and have a clear, biblical understanding of what it means to be a boy or a girl, a man or a woman.
- At the same time, one of the reasons I believe we’ve come to this place as a society is that Christians have absolutely no idea what it means to be a man or a woman. Historically, they have jam-packed so many false stereotypes into the discussion that the world is seeing it for what it is . . . man-made garbage.
- Couple that with the fact that the world itself has propagated wrong ideas concerning sex stereotypes since the beginning of time and you create an atmosphere where thinking people are going to scramble to find some sanity. They didn’t find it in the world. They didn’t find it in the church . . . so they’re left to figure it out on their own . . . and that never goes well.
- Instead of allowing God to define the sexes He created, mankind has come to the conclusion that you should just be whatever you feel like being. It’s the most basic, default position of any individual and society: if it feels good, do it. Do whatever is right in your own eyes.
- That’s why the world cannot be trusted to come to Christ-honoring conclusions on the topic of sex, gender, and identity. That is — unless they’re going to submit to the most basic, scientific realities of what it means to be a biological man or woman. Other than that, there’s little hope they’ll land on Truth.
- What do we do with this information?
 - First, you need teach your child what it means to be a Christ-honoring male or female. TeamTLP and I hope to offer help in that area as we work on “The Gender Discussion *Everyone is Going to Hate*” and the subsequent biblical study about what it really means to be a boy or a girl.
 - Second, you need to prepare your kids to respond in Christ-honoring ways when it comes to the philosophies they hear. They need to know how to answer the criticisms and respond to the questions. If not for the sake of others, at least for their own sake,