

Emotions and Parenting, Part 2

I. Hurtful Words & Behaviors

- What happens when a seaside town gets in the way of a tsunami – pretty much the same thing that happens when a child gets in the way of a parent's desires. Cue avalanche.
- James 4 tells us that conflict arises due to unfulfilled desires. We want something. We don't get it. We lash out emotionally. And the conflict escalates the more I don't get what I want.
- The reason we yell or use unedifying words or use the silent treatment, or passive aggressive comments, or physical positioning, or we withhold shows of affection is we've given our emotions the control of our responses.

II. Dominating Emotions

- What started as a simple family meal became a hot-house of Anger. Why?
- Because in the end, our negative behavior grew out of some very ugly roots. And our negative emotions which ruled our poor choices also found their source in the tangled roots of our belief system - the ultimate answer to every uncontrolled emotional outbreak is this:

III. Self-Worship - the belief that what I want is more important than what God wants.

- Self-worship is the sole cause of every hurt relationship!
- If I find more pleasure in fulfilling my own desires, then the desires of others will inevitably be trampled on my way to perceived satisfaction.
- Of course, this Failure Philosophy never works. If we all lived that way, our silent treatment will get in the way of our children and spouse's dreams . . . and they won't like that any more than we do.
- And when no one seems to realize that I deserve my way, and I've run out of "respectable" forms of aggression, and I refuse to acknowledge God's opinion on the matter, there's no other recourse than to shame or scare someone into submission.
- Of course, my reasoning for why you need to cater to me will never convince you to abandon your reasoning for why I need to cater to you! All we're left with is emotion-soaked slandering, accusing, yelling, crying, threatening, name-calling, throwing, hitting and killing.
- Almost every time behaviors like this occur in an otherwise normal family, you can be certain that at least one person has lost control of their emotions because they're basically calling God a liar.
- And that's what you'd expect in a world where everyone's emotions are *Inside Out*.
- So, in reverse, when my expectations are grounded in who I am instead of who God is, I will not be happy when people don't meet my expectations. And then my inappropriate feelings will embolden my sinful behavior which grows out of my belief that I should get what I want.