

The Counter-Intuitive Nature of Parenting in Christ

I. God's plan is rarely our plan.

- John 21
- We have to grapple with the fact that God's plan likely has nothing to do with ours. We're going to see that Jesus wasn't interested in their fishing endeavors. He likely didn't care if they were hoping to sell the fish or dry them in the hot Judean sun. He wanted to accomplish something far more important.
- Is it possible that Jesus' plan for your life and parenting is not what you've been lead to believe?

II. God's method is rarely our method.

- When it comes to fishing, Jesus is the guy you want in the boat. He not only tosses out all conventional wisdom, He basically tells the fish what to do.
- When it comes to our parenting, we need to acknowledge that Jesus' methods are going to be supernatural. They're going to be different than anything the world can conjure. Jesus' ways are likely going to look strange or foolish to the "professionals" because they defy worldly reason.

III. God's goal is rarely our goal.

- The reason God's plan and method contradicts our own is that God is trying to accomplish something very different than we are.
- I'm going to get back into the John 21 passage in a minute, but I want you to know that today's episode is the first of three. Today we're addressing the counter-intuitive nature of parenting in Christ. Next time I hope to address the uncomfortable neighbors that come as a result of parenting in Christ. And then I want to wrap it up with a discussion about the reward of parenting in Christ.
- However, if you don't even know what I mean when I say "parenting in Christ," I would encourage you to listen to our series by the same name. God desires that all human dads and moms parent in Christ, and those of us who are born again are commanded to parent in Christ.
- It's absolutely necessary that we know what it means, what it looks like, and what it produces.
- But I can tell you this for sure, parenting in Christ is going to involve a different plan, method, and goal than you would ever imagine on your own.

IV. Conclusion

- When you compare Bible teaching to the world's thinking on parenting, it likely seems ridiculous and bound for failure.
- But God makes it clear in His Word that His followers must trust and obey. If God teaches that the single most important thing we can do for our kids is teach them His Word . . . then that's what we do.
- I Corinthians 1:18-25; I Corinthians 2:12-16; I Corinthians 3:18-20; Isaiah 55:8-11
- The first time Jesus performed the fishing miracle, Peter withdrew from Christ. He asked Jesus to go away from him, but the second time it happens, Peter hurls himself at Christ. He grabs his cloak and jumps into the sea. He swims to shore faster than the boats could get there because there was nothing more important than being with Christ.

- Leave your expectations and desires and wishes and goals. Leave your plans and intentions and methods and systems. Run to Christ, swim to Christ, crawl to Christ. He has the answers in His Word. He will share His plans and His methods and His goals if we will but sit next to Him and listen.
- Like Mary chose the better part as she fixed herself at the foot of the Savior while Martha ran ragged preparing food for the Sovereign King, maybe you need to stop doing what you think is best and let God tell you what truly is best.
- So, how do we run to Christ? Spend time in His Word. In John 17, Jesus is talking to the Father, and He asks that the Father sanctify the disciples.
- Sanctification is the process of making a born again follower of Christ more holy. And what method did Jesus ask the Father to use to sanctify the disciples? Listen to His words in John 17:17, *“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”*
- From the world’s standards the Bible is not an acceptable parenting book. Some may even call it damaging and dangerous. They may say that anyone who would parent according to biblical principles are hurting their children. But no one will ever parent successfully without it.
- God’s plan for our parenting isn’t going to feel natural or normal. It’s going to challenge us and break us and build us back up again as God uses it to revolutionize our kids.
- It’s counter-intuitive to our Flesh . . . but with the all-loving and all-powerful and all-knowing God of the universe on our side . . . it actually makes all the sense in the world.

Truth.
Love.
Parent.

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