

Can You Defend Your Parenting?

I. Possible Responses to the Question

- Some of you are certain your parenting isn't good and that there isn't a jury in the world who would fail to convict you of bad parenting.
- Some of you are — at best — uncertain. You could just as easily provide evidence of your parental failings as you could your parental successes. You're just hoping your good might outweigh your bad.
- Some of you are convinced that your parenting has been right and good, but you're not sure how you would prove that to a jury.
- And others of you know exactly what evidence you would provide.

II. Other Important Questions

- **Does it matter if you can defend your parenting?**
 - I Peter 3:13-18
 - Our parenting is under scrutiny. It's being judged by your kids, your spouse, your extended family, your neighbors, almost everyone who sees you parent, and — ultimately — God.
 - And we must be prepared to give a defense for our choices — especially if we claim those choices are grounded in the hope we have in Christ.
 - So, yes, it does matter if you can defend your parenting. God expects that you should be able to.
- **With everyone making judgments about your parenting, which ones really matter?**
 - Romans 8:31; Romans 14:12; Hebrews 13:17
 - The reason we need to be able to rightly defend our parenting is that God does have a standard with which He does and will compare us.
 - That means the final question is desperately important for us to be able to answer in the affirmative: "Can I defend my parenting?"
 - Please understand that we're not referring to someone who's being defensive. They feel trapped and their pride and selfishness are flaring up, and they're grabbing at whatever they can to provide excuses (good or bad) to convince everyone listening that their parenting was valuable.
 - This has nothing to do with a childish defensiveness that feels the need to persuade all those in our hearing that we really are a good parent.
 - It's about the strictly legal sense. Having to defend my parenting is identical to "providing evidences that my parenting is objectively good by comparing it to an acceptable standard."

What evidence can you provide to your family, church, neighbors, community, and God to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that your parenting — though it isn't perfect — is objectively good?