

Defensible Parenting

The only defensible parenting in the entire universe is parenting that submits to what God has commanded of us in His Word.

I. The Scriptures declare themselves to be useful.

- II Timothy 3:15-17; Psalm 119:1-12
- They “make one wise unto salvation.” That comes straight from II Timothy 3:15.
- The Scriptures are useful to sanctify the believer toward Christlikeness. Those four sanctifying roles are the Parent’s 5 Jobs we discover in verse 16. The Bible teaches us what’s right and wrong. Reproves us when we’re wrong. Corrects us to return to the right. And trains us to stay right.
- Submission to God’s Word makes our parenting blessed, blameless, righteous, established, unashamed, thankful, pure, and purposeful.
- Isn’t that a fantastic set of desires for our kids. We want them to be blessed. We want them to be blameless in their righteousness and unashamed of their purity. We want them to be established on a firm foundation with a clear and eternal purpose.
- Scriptural parenting is defensible because its sufficient for everything our children need to be and everything they will encounter.

II. The Scriptures are declared to be the “Sword of the Spirit” to use in the context of warfare.

- Ephesians 6:17; John 1
- That particular use of the term “word” does not refer only to the Bible or Jesus Christ, but is used to refer to the actual speaking of Scripture.
- We must also consider the particular use of the term “sword.” This Greek word refers to a short dagger used in close fighting and which allowed for more precision.
- Premeditated parenting *plans* to know *specific* Scriptures that address the *specific* problems.
- The Bible not only teaches us that the Scriptures are the place to learn everything we and our kids need to know for life and godliness, but it also presents it as a tool that can be used by us in our spiritual warfare. It’s active and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword that pierces down into us when it’s wielded accurately by another.

III. Jesus use of the Scriptures in His Temptation declares how valuable it is.

- Matthew 4:1-11; Matthew 5:5-7
- Jesus demonstrates the use of the “dagger” to address the specific attack and need of the moment.
 - But then something interesting happens. Satan actually attempts to use Scriptures against Jesus. Mathew 5:5-7 gives us that account.
 - But when Satan quoted the Bible, Jesus didn’t submit to it? Why Jesus didn’t submit to the authority of God’s Word when confronted by it?
- Jesus demonstrates that the God of the Bible is the authority that makes the Scriptures so powerful. We could say it this way . . . it’s not just the words.
 - First, there is a relationship between Jesus and the Word of God. He is committed to the complete fulfillment of the Word. He is also committed to the authority of Scripture. And He is the Word of God incarnate. It’s that relationship that allowed Him to understand when the Scripture was being misapplied to argue for a sinful course of action.

- Second, authority is inherent only in the “rightly-divided” Word — not the speaker.
- The Word of God when correctly interpreted as God would interpret it contains the power and efficacy of God. But when a human (or satanic) speaker twists the Bible for their own purposes, it’s stripped of its power and efficacy.
- Satan tampered with inspiration and authorial intent, and he paid the price.
- So, third, we can easily conclude that such distortions of the proper use of Scripture rob the authority of God’s Word.

IV. Defensible Parenting requires biblical familiarity, submission, and usage.

- II Peter 3:13-18; Psalm 119; Psalm 14:1b; II Timothy 2:15-17
- Our parenting isn’t defensible just because our families *interact* with the Bible. Satan *interacts* with the Bible. The pharisee’s *interacted* with the Bible.
 - Truly defensible parenting knows what the Bible says.
 - The ability to *properly* use God’s Truth to handle life comes through being a “worker . . . rightly handing the Truth.” God’s word means what God intends it to mean, and God did not intend it to mean whatever we want it to mean. It’s not enough to simply know what the Bible says, we have to understand it how God intended us to understand it. And defensible parenting is ready to do the hard work.
 - If we don’t use the Truth we know and understand, we don’t really *believe* the Truth.
- The fact that you’re a Christian who reads the Bible, attends church, sends your kids to Christian schools, youth groups, and camps doesn’t make your parenting Christ-honoring.
 - Your parenting is only defensible when you actually believe what you encounter in the Bible, and since believing always produces behavior your parenting is going to reflect what you believe in the bible.
 - Defensible parenting has done the hard work of knowing God and understanding how it’s to be interpreted, and defensible parenting actually does the even harder work of trusting God’s Word enough to put it to use in their parenting.
- So, if someone were to challenge why you do what you do, remember these 3 points.
 - Consider if they’re offering a genuinely biblical critique. Whether they do it the right way or not, if they’re speaking Truth, you would be wise to submit to God’s critique of your parenting.
 - If they’re not speaking Truth, share with them that you parent the way you do because you’re a follower of Christ. Some people will throw their hands up and walk away because you’ve shown your hand and they have already judged you to be a lost cause. So be it. The key is, you have to make it about God, not about you. If you can actually point to the biblical command or principle on which you’re founding your parenting choice, that’s even better.
 - But if they don’t just immediately give up on you and you have the opportunity to continue the conversation, it should be less about method and style and more about how your biblical parenting flows from God’s character and expectations. Allow the Christ-honoring aspects of your parenting to be a living illustration of God.