

God's Truth, Satan's Lies I and how to parent out of death into life

I. How Satan Persuades

- **Satan convinced Adam and Eve that he wanted what was best for them.**
- **Satan asked questions.**
- **Satan spoke with confidence.**
- **Satan told them part of the Truth.**
- **Satan appealed to every facet of their being.** (Genesis 3:6)

II. How We Should Persuade

- **We parents must absolutely love our children and want God's best interest for their lives.**
 - How many parents want their children to embrace God's will for their sexuality, but their kids sin, and then the parents rip into them. Sure, they're espousing God's plan and blessing for sexuality and the destruction that comes from sinning, but they're simultaneously rejecting God's plan for their own motivation and conversation. They get angry and unkind and hateful and mean. How do you expect your child to believe you love them and have their best interest in mind?
- **We parents should ask questions to engage our children's minds to overrule their emotions.**
 - The world does everything it can to pull at our mindless emotions, but we need to engage our kids rational, Theo-logical minds.
 - We talked often about the value of asking questions, so I won't rehash all of that here, but I will say that far too many parents are really good at lectures, commands, declarative statements, and soliloquies.
 - Now, is there a time for each of those? Yes, and yes again, but if that is the only mode you have for communication, you are going to potentially ostracism your audience . . . especially if you couple those lectures with hateful attitudes and words.
- **We parents must speak confidently about God's Word.**
 - The modern church says a lot of things like, "I believe the Bible means," "What does that verse mean to you?" and other equally flaccid statements.
 - There is no confidence there. There is no fact, no truth, no certainty. The world is telling us they know exactly what we need to be happy, and we're telling our kids that we're pretty sure that our interpretation of God's difficult-to-understand-word is probably good . . . or just as good as anyone else's. But God is confident!
 - The fool has said there is no God.
 - Flee youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace.
 - And then He gives us passages and passages that define righteousness, faith, love and peace.
 - In addition to that, the Bible speaks often of the foolish and wicked who deliberately twist the Scriptures.
 - My point is that the practical meaning of the Bible is clear in the vast majority of the cases, and where there is flexibility and liberty to apply the Bible differently, that is a gift from God, and proper application will never lead to sin.

- **We parents must speak the Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth of God.**
 - The only reality is God’s reality. The only Truth is God’s absolute Truth. The only fact is that which God created.
 - But if we root our parenting in our own opinions and desires and wishes and philosophies, we’re going to ostracize our kids.
 - We actually shoot our parenting in the knee when we make it about what we think and want — when we make it about us versus our kids.
- **We parents must appeal to every facet of our children.**
 - Mark 12:30
 - Many people like to read ideas into these words that weren’t there in the time of Christ. They see this passage as describing the emotions, mind, will, and physical body. But that’s not really what’s going on here.
 - “Heart” did not refer to our emotions, it referred to our minds. It was used to describe the core of our beings, the place where decisions are made. Though heart may have been the center of our personhood, the word “soul” refers to the whole person, and obviously includes the heart. “Mind” describes the thoughts that are formulate in the heart, and strength does not specifically refer to our physical bodies, but instead describes the power we are to have in our thoughts.
 - Jesus is saying that we must use all of our power to love God with each of our individual thoughts in our mind at the center of our soul, and every concentric circle is to be consumed with loving Him. That is the most important part of our kids.

I. Concluding Thoughts

- Ephesians 6.
- The Armor of God is the exact opposite of what Satan was doing in the Garden of Eden and what he’s doing in your home. Satan has the worst motivation and is trying to convince our kids of the worst lies, and yet it’s so easy to embrace because he communicates it so stealthily and smoothly.
- And then we parents take the Bible and yell it at our kids and beat them over the head with it, and when they reject the Truth of God’s Word for the lies of Satan, we throw all of the blame on our rebellious child and give ourself a pass because we used the Bible.
- We’re not saying that communicating Truth in a way that pleases the Lord means that we talk in an almost whisper, a syrupy sweet tone of voice, and a perpetual smile.
- If Satan can convince our kids that he cares about them and use communication skills that onboard the child versus push them away . . . then we can **absolutely love our children and want God’s best interest for their lives. We can ask questions to engage our children’s minds to overrule their emotions. We can speak confidently about God’s Word. We can speak the Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth of God. And we can appeal to every facet of our children.**
- And — layering Ephesians 6 into this — if we are born again believers we can speak the Truth in a righteous way. We can root our parenting in the Gospel. Our parenting should show that we believe God’s promises. If all of that is true, I promise that your parenting will flow from the Scripture and be filled with it, and I know you’ll be praying for your kids and shining the light of God in your home.
- That is how we parent from death into life.