

TLP 413: Children and Security I the biggest parenting challenges you will face, part 1

I. Security is one of the greatest parenting challenges you will ever face.

- Whether our kids are single-digits, double-digits, or currently digitless, we want them to be free from the danger of risk or loss. Your kids want that for themselves too. (Isaiah 38:14)
- We also want our kids to be safe. But the Bible does equip us to be spiritually safe in the midst of this physically dangerous world. The point is, you want your kids to be safe. Your kids want to be safe. You want to be safe. (Psalm 12:5)
- Modern Americans are fundamentally averse to anything unsatisfactory. We have customer service to help us fix our unsatisfactory service. We want our food to be satisfying. We want our clothes to be comfortable. We want our entertainment to fill a hole in our lives. Everyone wants to be satisfied. (Psalm 59:15)

II. How is the pursuit of security challenging?

- **We live in a dangerous world.**
- **Security is costly.**
- **We're finite.** (I Corinthians 7:32-34)

III. Why is the pursuit of security the epicenter parenting challenge?

- Every parenting issue finds its root in the fact that everyone involved was trying to achieve a level of satisfaction.
- The child's pursuit of satisfaction coerced him to disobey his parents. The father's pursuit of security tempted him to lash out at the boy for his continued disobedience. The mother's pursuit of safety convinced her to believe her husband was parenting the wrong way.
- Every choice you and your kids make is going to boil down to the fact that you believed your choice was going to provide the most personal satisfaction.

IV. Why is the pursuit of security so dangerous?

- Choosing satisfaction incorrectly will result in far more dangerous consequences.
- We can know that every single person in your family regardless of their age is surrounded by physical and spiritual danger and/or discomfort. And each of them makes thousands of decisions throughout the course of his or her day to sidestep that danger and discomfort. And each of those decisions is motivated by a longing for security amidst the danger and discomfort.
- No one makes the decision they believe will result in more danger and discomfort and dissatisfaction. We all do what we believe will provide us the most security.
- How does one choose? How do we not make the same mistake that Eve and Akin made? How can we know for sure what the safest and most secure and most satisfying choice is? (I Thessalonians 5:3)

V. How can we have victory over this parenting challenge?

- Every day the single biggest parenting challenge you are going to face is that your kids are — right now — being tempted to choose the wrong satisfaction. They're believing the lie that security is going to come in ways you know are dangerous. Right now your kids are believing the lie that safety is found in all the wrong pursuits. But how can we and our kids — in every situation — make the most secure choice? How can we teach our children to make the safest decision? How does our family know what is genuinely satisfying?

- In order to answer the question, we must first answer a second question. **Who get's to define your family vocabulary?**
 - If dad and mom and child all get to define satisfaction for themselves — however they want — no one will be happy.
 - If dad and child have to submit to mom's definition of satisfaction . . . not one's going to be happy. And the same goes for the family having to submit to any one person's definition of satisfaction.
 - The world is a perfect example of this. Individuals, organizations, governments, nations, they all believe they know what will be the best option for everyone, but it only results in arguments and fights and wars.
- But God is the only one who gets to define reality. The Bible is excessively clear where true security lies. God has verbosely explained how to be safe. And He has gloriously revealed what true satisfaction is. Psalms 37 and 91 tell us exactly how to live securely. Proverbs 2 does the same thing. (Psalm 4:8; Proverbs 13:25; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Psalm 2; Romans 1:21-32)
- Families who don't honor the Lord or give thanks to Him but instead do not see fit to acknowledge Him any longer are going to be given over to a depraved mind that will work itself out in all of the ways listed in Romans 1.
- This is your biggest parenting challenge. You must choose for yourself, and you must teach your family that submitting to God's will is the only way we will ever have security and safety and satisfaction in this life because God alone gets to define those terms. He is loving and powerful and merciful and gracious and wise enough to know exactly what we need at every moment of the day.
- We teach this by being biblical parents who speak God's Words in our parenting and who have parenting Bibles as thick as the Bible itself. We teach this by assembling as often as possible with a Christ-honoring body of local believers. We teach this by one-anothering. We teach this by being salt and light in our community. We teach this by making the biblical choice even when it will result in persecution. We teach this by engaging in redemptive discipling relationships. We teach this by giving God the preeminence in our home that He deserves.
- Worshipping God, submitting to His Truth, celebrating Him in the most mundane decisions of our day is the only way that our families will ever be secure.

Parent.
... a part of the Evermind Ministries family.