

Identifying a False Parent I False Parents, Part 2

I. False Parents claim to speak for God, but they don't.

- Jeremiah 14:14
- God has called all parents to bring our kids up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, but False Parenting substitutes God's message for another.
- False Parenting doesn't have to be intentional; we can easily do it accidentally.

II. False Parents have wrong motivations.

- Isaiah 56:10-12; Jeremiah 23:9-40; Mark 7:6 (Isaiah 29:13); Romans 16:17-18
 - It's wrong to parent in our own way,
 - It's wrong to parent in order to receive personal gain,
 - It's wrong to parent for our own pleasures.
- The biblical picture of adultery is often used to describe idolatry. God's people are cheating on Him when they make their way more important than His.
- When we parent for ourselves, we're cheating on God. We're being a False Parent, and we're being wicked.
- We — far too often — parent according to our own appetites. We want our kids to be or do or say or feel something, so we do whatever it takes to get them to do what we want them to do. But that's not how we've learned Christ!

III. False Parents are presumptuous.

- Deuteronomy 4:2, 18:20-22
- Merriam-Webster defines presumptuous as "overstepping due bounds" or "taking liberties."
- A False Parent put words in God's mouth, and that's never a good idea. If God hasn't said it, we'd better not say it.

IV. False Parents contradict the Scriptures.

- II Peter 2:1; II Timothy 4:4; I Timothy 6:3-4; Colossians 2:8; Galatians 1:6-9; II Corinthians 11:4
- If what we're saying to our kids doesn't conform to the teachings of God, we're False Parents. If we're not leading our kids to faithfully follow Christ, we're False Parents.
- And those who don't use God's Word at all are using pragmatism to motivate their kids. Pragmatism is the Failure Philosophy that claims that the ends justify the means. It argues that if how we parent gets our kids to do something "good," then what we did was good. In the same way that parenting for my own pleasure is a sin against God, my children are still sinning if they're nice to each other for *their own pleasure*.
- If our kids are nice to avoid consequences or because they want their sibling to treat them well or because they hope that people will want to play with them . . . their own pleasure and satisfaction and comfort are their motivation, not God.

V. False Parents get their authority from sources other than God.

- Isaiah 8:19-22; Colossians 2:8; II Timothy 4:3-4; Galatians 1:8-9; Psalm 13:13-14; Acts 17:11; I John 4:1
- It doesn't matter if the teaching *feels* right or seems like it may work. It doesn't matter if it makes pragmatic sense. Does it conform to God's Word?

- Some actually *pursue* pop-parenting precisely because they *don't want* to parent the way God commands.
- Some really like some of what God has to say, but when God's Word contradicts the worldly parenting advice that they like better, they deliberately dismiss it, but they don't feel like they're doing a disservice to God because they make the claim that "Things are different now."
- But the most dangerous category is when we take our parenting advice from people who are themselves False Teachers.

VI. False Parents make it about their authority.

- Jeremiah 5:30-31
- Do we see ourselves as people who have this parenting thing down and don't need anyone else's input because we're sufficient in and of ourselves to provide our own satisfaction? Or do we identify as sinners desperately in need of a Savior and spiritual weaklings desperately in need of empowerment? Are we autonomous lords of our domain, or are we spiritually destitute followers of Christ.

VII. False Parents don't expose sin and its roots.

- Lamentations 2:14
- God's Word is abundantly clear about sin. It does a great job defining it and identifying it and providing instruction to help us turn from it.
- But we get into A LOT of trouble when we say that something isn't a sin that God clearly calls a sin, or when we call something a sin that God's doesn't.
- Our kids are in a spiritual war. Satan wants to eat them alive, and it's not good enough to encourage them to do right when they don't even understand why what they're doing is wrong.
- This is why Jesus — in the Sermon on the Mount — starts with our sin. We will never hunger and thirst after righteousness until we have a relationship with Christ, but we won't be able to do that until we approach Him meekly, but we're not going to do that until we've recognized that we're spiritually destitute and grieved to our core about that reality.

VIII. False Parents are recognizable by their whole life.

- Matthew 7:15-23, 24:11-12; Luke 6:26; II Timothy 3:1-17
- You will never be an absolute angel in every other facet of your life, but struggle with this "one sin" in this "one area" of your life.
- You can identify False Parenting in you and others simply by acknowledging consistent sin patterns in your life. Your unrepentant sins — in any area of your life — are going to fuel your False Parenting . . . every time.

IX. False Parents experience the consequences of False Parenting.

- II Corinthians 11:13-15; Jeremiah 23:9-40; Romans 1:18, 28-32
- If you say you're living a life that pleases God, then your life should be filled with the outcomes and consequences of someone who's pleasing God.
- But, if you look at your life and see the consequences that only come from sinning against God, you need to accept that your life isn't what you think it is.