

Helping a False Parent | False Parents, Part 3

I. Truly Understand the Nature and Consequences of False Parenting.

- Why does the Bible have so much to say about False Prophets? Answer: God wants us know all about False Prophets so we can not only avoid them, but also not become them.
- It's the human condition to be blind to our sin, but — by the grace of God and the faithful wounds of our friends — we can see ourselves the way God sees us. That's where change is going to start.

II. Confess, Apologize, and Repent of Your False Parenting.

- I Timothy 1:12-14; Revelation 2:20-23
- We need to confess our sin, ask forgiveness from those against whom we've sinned, and repent.

III. Recommit to Biblical Parenting.

- II Timothy 4:3-5
- **When it comes to parenting, God is the only authority.** I Samuel 15:222-3
- **Don't forget the importance of motivation.**
 - It's not enough to obey God simply because we like obeying God. That kind of obedience is about us. It's not enough to grudgingly obey God. We have to truly want to obey God because He deserves it. He's awesome and glorious and wonderful, and that's why we obey Him. It's not because of what we receive from obedience. It's not about how we look to others. It's about Him and Him alone.
- **Remember that Biblical Parenting is perfectly summed up in Deuteronomy 6 and Ephesians 6.**
- **Biblical Parenting makes a big deal about God and, therefore, makes a big deal about sin.** Lamentations 2:14; Ephesians 5:11-13

IV. Diligently Study to Know God's Word.

- Isaiah 9:19-22; II Timothy 2:15; Psalm 119
- We must recommit to being life-long students of God and His Word. We'll never be able to read it enough, we'll never know enough, we'll never exhaust Its treasure trove of wisdom.

V. Diligently Study to Understand God's Word.

- I Corinthians 14:33
- A lot of people are familiar with various verses in the Bible, but the vast, overwhelming majority don't really *understand* the truth in those verses.
- Misunderstanding the Scriptures has been used by some to justify Crusades, slavery, homosexuality, and even abortion.
- "The Bible is very easy to understand. But we Christians are a bunch of scheming swindlers. We pretend to be unable to understand it because we know very well that the minute we understand, we are obliged to act accordingly." - Soren Kierkegaard -
- If God's Word is exactly what it claims to be and means exactly what it claims to mean, then Biblical Parents must understand the Scriptures as God intended them to be understood. And we can only do that we as we approach the Bible from a natural, normal interpretation of the text as it was written by real people under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

VI. Diligently Speak God's Word.

- If we know and understand God's Word, we will obviously speak it. That means that our parenting is going to be filled with truth, holiness, love, grace, justice, mercy, contentment, encouragement, gratitude, peace, joy, reproof, edification, admonishment, and so much more.

VII. Diligently Live God's Word.

- Mathew 7:15-16; I Thessalonians 5:13-21
- It's never going to please the Lord to tell our kids "Do as I say not as I do." That is wickedness parading itself as wisdom.
- Instead, we should be able to tell our kids to investigate every facet of our lives, and — with Paul — invite our children to "*Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.*" This is the most glorious part of Biblical Parenting — we get to follow Jesus step by step, and then we get to walk side by side with our children as we all follow Christ.
- That is the Christian life. That is discipleship. That is corporate worship that glorifies God.

VIII. Be Content with God's Word.

- I Timothy 6:3-8
- There will always be a new truckload of Failure Philosophies and pop-culture worldviews and "new research" and the like that will contradict and contend with the Bible. And if our eye is always looking for the next new thing, we will be tempted and drawn away by the seemingly shining facade of the world's godless thinking.
- We need to be content with the old, permanent, realities of God.

IX. Test Everything by God's Word.

- Galatians 1:8-9; Romans 16:17-18; I Thessalonians 5:21-22; I John 4:1-6; Revelation 2:2
- Biblical Parents are not allowed to swallow the world's lies, but how will we know they're a lie if we don't compare it to the truth? Once we've done our due diligence, we can easily reject what doesn't conform to God's Word.

X. A Practical Example of Biblical Parenting

- I Timothy 1:12-19; II Timothy 3:1-5; Colossians 3:16-17
- **Biblical Parents fight to stay true to God.**
 - It's not a casual stroll. It's not an amusement park ride. Biblical Parenting is strenuous. It requires blood, sweat, and tears. Biblical Parenting is part of our spiritual warfare. And we will have to daily strive to keep "*faith and a good conscience.*"
 - This is a call not merely to blindly follow, it's a call to fight to maintain our trajectory and hone our sensitivities so that if we stray from our calling, our conscience will sound an alarm.
- **Biblical Parents are consumed with the Word of God.**
 - Paul told Timothy to continue in the truth that he had already learned, and then revealed the glorious life-changing power of the Bible. It teaches, it reproves, it corrects, and it trains so that we and our children can be equipped for every good work.
- **Biblical Parents pour God's truth into their children.**
 - Our parenting cannot help but be affected by God's Word. Being diligent to know and understand God will always result in our being diligent to speak and live in a way that pleases Him.