



Parenting a Rocky-Hearted Child

I. Who Is the Rocky-Hearted Child?

- They love the religious ideas of the Bible.
- They receive it with joy.
- But they don't truly accept the deepest and most necessary Truth of the Gospel.
- For that reason, there will be no genuine fruit of repentance in their lives. Though they claim to have faith, they won't have the spiritual works to back it up.

II. Do You have Rocky-Hearted Child in Your Home?

- Warning: This heart is the most dangerous because — on the outside — this person may seem really “good.”
- And if their lives lack enough persecution, tribulation, and testing, we and they may continue believing they're truly born again even though they lack genuine fruit.
- the fruit of repentance, the fruit of the Spirit, are not behaviors.
- Did you know that obedience is not a Fruit of the Spirit. That's right. An unsaved person can obey a parent or a police officer.
- Telling the truth is not a Fruit of the Spirit. Unsaved people can be honest.
- Being a diligent student, or a good sportsman, or a fascinating pastor are not Fruits of the Spirit. Unsaved people can do every single one.
- The best way to tell which of our children may have a Rocky-Heart is to look for actual fruit of repentance.

III. How Can You Cultivate Your Child's Heart Like Jesus Did?

- ***Pray without ceasing***
- ***Speak Truth without ceasing.***
- ***Love without ceasing.***
- ***Look for Fruit without ceasing.***
 - Investigate your children's lives to see if the following fruit are alive and well.
 - Galatians 5:16-24
 - II Peter 1:3-11
 - Ephesians 6:10-18
 - Of course, no one will do this perfectly, but if your child truly desires the Lord's glory in their own little way, and they manifest an understanding that being kind is not simply a checklist of words and behaviors, but the outflowing of a heart that desires another's best above their own, and your child is growing in Christlikeness though it may be — then what you'll be seeing in their life is the Fruit of Repentance.

III. How Can You Cultivate Your Child's Heart Like Jesus Did? (continued)

- **Keep the pressure increasing.**
 - The time of testing is pictured by the drought. It's a stressful, pressure-filled time that shallow plants cannot bear up under, but fruitful plants — whose roots are deep in the soil of Truth — can continue to thrive like a tree planted by the rivers of water. And we parents need to be part of that time of testing.
 - The high biblical expectations of an Ambassador Parent need to be part of that testing. There's nothing better than high biblical expectations to reveal a Rocky-Heart.
 - Remember, a Rocky-Heart believes part of the Truth to a certain degree. But their ultimate motivation is still selfish.
 - A person can bear up under stress for about 2-4 weeks without cracking. But if the pressure continues and their strength is spent, the individual will cave.
 - Again, I'm not saying you put your kids through some arduous, quasi-religious boot-camp experience. But I am saying that you have to parent them as if when God said, "*Be holy as I am holy,*" He was serious about it. Yes, you do it in Truth and Love, but the expectation has to be biblical, which means that *it's inherently too high for any of us to do without the power of the Holy Spirit.*
 - **Your expectations for your children need to be impossible for them to achieve in their own strength.**
 - And if your child fails and their motivation is revealed that they didn't truly believe the gospel, you will have done yourself and them the greatest service in the universe. You will have shown them they need Christ, and you can start the process of helping break up that shallow rock so they can accept the seed of Truth in a heart that will grow its roots deep into the truth of God.

To parent a Hard-Hearted Child we need to pour as much Truth and Love onto her as possible. To parent the Rocky-Hearted Child, we need to keep the same amount of Truth and Love flooding into his life, but we also need to test the commitment he claims to have. We need to lovingly equip him and keep him accountable to bear the fruit of repentance and become more like Christ.