

Are There Failure Philosophies in Your Home?

I. What is a Failure Philosophy?

- **Failure** – As the name implies, this philosophy is doomed to failure. It may currently be failing (and often is), or it's *guaranteed* to fail sometime in the future.
- **Philosophy** – this word basically means “*why you do what you do.*” It's your motivation for your behavior. It's the same as a worldview or belief system.
- A **Failure Philosophy** is a belief system bound to destroy you. It always brings the possibility of present and future failure.

II. Inconsistent Philosophies

- **Inconsistent philosophies** affect how I treat other people in relation to other people. If all things are equal, I should be treating all people equally.
 - Of course, we all realize the subjectivity inherent in life. Staff members at [Victory Academy for Boys](#) are allowed to have mobile devices, but the students are not. This is not inconsistent because the boys and the staff aren't functioning with the same level of responsibility and authority.
 - But what if I were not allowed to have a mobile, but a fellow staff member were? This would likely be a sign of inconsistency if the rule were inappropriately applied.
 - However, I may have earned that discrimination had I neglected my work responsibilities due to YouTube!
 - You may have to treat your children differently, but you need a solid, logical, *biblical* reason to do so.
 - The key is to intentionally question why you do what you do (philosophy). If — as we discussed last time — you find yourself treating one of your children better than the other simply because you prefer one over the other . . . you're destined for failure.
- How to Help
 - *Ask Questions:* Due to the subjective nature of this concept, you must ask questions to be sure you understand the other person's motivation.
 - *Be Logical:* We need to be sure our own philosophies are valid before we explain how someone else's aren't.
 - *Know Truth:* Our opinions carry very little weight; and that's okay! Only God's Truth stands the test of time. If you want to be right all the time, just agree with God.

III. Hypocritical Philosophies

- **Hypocritical philosophies** affect how I treat other people in relation to how I want other people treating me. *If all things are equal, I should treat people the same way I want them treating me.*
 - How many times do we justify doing wrong because, “*I'm the parent*”? It's okay for us to raise our voices when we don't like what's going on? It's okay for us to swear, drink, smoke? It's okay for us to watch movies we wouldn't let our children watch? It's okay for us to act emotionally? It's okay to sneak snacks? Misuse God's Word to get what we want? Speed? Doze off in church? Be lazy? Forget to do something you promised you were going to do?

- You see, if we're honest with ourselves, if "*what's good for the goose isn't good the gander*" then you may be living a Failure Philosophy.
- Of course, there are plenty of instances where subjectivity sneaks into this category as well. I'm allowed to drive a car; my seven year old isn't. It's okay for me to have a phone that I use to glorify God even though my porn-watching teen isn't allowed to have one.
- The key is not to excuse sin in our lives as we condemn it in others.
- How to Help
 - *Ask Questions*: Many times I go into situation believing the child is functioning off a bad philosophy, only to learn there was some valuable info I didn't have. Flying into the situation with lectures flying generally backfires. Ask your questions to be sure you have all the information and to help them see the flaws in their thinking.
 - *Be Logical*: Jesus frequently used parables and illustrations to help people see the error of their ways.
 - *Know Truth*: God commands us at every turn to love, prefer above ourselves, serve, honor, submit to, and respect others. It's very easy to apply the Bible when people are being hypocritical because not only is the sinful behavior addressed, but hypocrisy itself is frequently condemned in Scripture.

IV. Delusional Philosophies

- **Delusional philosophies** affect how I respond to God's Absolute Truth. If all things are as God says they are, I need to trust His Word.
 - It doesn't matter how good you feel about it, how "well" it worked in the past, or how planned out it is, the idea that it's okay for me to steal is a Failure Philosophy because God has clearly outlined why stealing is wrong.
 - For the same reason, laziness at work, provocative parenting, gluttony, worry, gossip, lust, and unkind speech are also wrong. And participating in those things show that we're delusional enough to think we can sin and not be held accountable!
 - This category *includes* both the Inconsistent and Hypocritical Philosophies. If I'm being inconsistent or hypocritical, I'm deluded if I think life will work.
 - Do we think it's okay to "follow our hearts?" Does it glorify God to eat whatever we want whenever we want? Does God have limits on how and for what we spend our money? Is it okay to be a "Closet Christian?" Is church attendance really optional? Is Darwinian evolution a Christ-honoring belief? Is it unimportant the kind of music to which we listen?
- How to Help
 - *Ask Questions*: One question I love to ask is, "*Can you support your life choice using the Bible?*" They may try, but legitimate exegesis prevents all Failure Philosophies from being supported by Scripture.
 - *Be Logical*: it's delusional to live like God doesn't exist in a universe where He does – therefore we must seek biblically-informed logic. So we must turn to His Word for His logic.
 - *Know Truth*: We can't live God's Word if we don't believe God's Word. We can't believe God's Word unless we know God's Word. We have to Love It, Learn It, Live It, and Lead It! We can't help others do this if we aren't doing it ourselves. We must be going the same direction we're leading.