

# Evangelism Parenting

## I. What's an Evangelist?

- The biblical office on an evangelist is a “publisher of glad tidings.” In a modern context, often this individual travels frequently from church to church. This makes them less like a traditional pastor because their main goal is to introduce as many people to the Gospel as possible. After leading a soul to Christ, they connect them with a local body of Christ to help them in their discipleship and sanctification.
- In regard to parenting, I use the term “Evangelism Parenting” to refer to a specific form of child-rearing that focuses on introducing a lost child to Christ so that they follow Him and are born again into the family of God. In the strictest sense, the parent would cease to be an Evangelist Parent at this point because their child is now a believer. Now they start Discipleship Parenting.
- However, I don't want anyone to be confused. All Ambassador Parenting is Gospel-centered parenting. Evangelism Parenting is simply a stage of Ambassador Parenting that focuses on encouraging your child to accept the Good News of Salvation.
- If you don't know what Ambassador Parenting means, please check out episodes 26 and 27. But my main concern in this discussion is that no one think that once our kids get saved we stop talking about the Gospel. May that never be!

## II. What's the Gospel?

- *“I am deeply persuaded that what is missing in most Christian parent's parenting are the big grand perspectives and principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ. These perspectives and principles are radical and counterintuitive. They're simply not natural for us, but they're essential to being what you're supposed to be and doing what you're supposed to do as a parent. When you parent with what the gospel says about God, you, your world, your children, and God's grace, you not only approach parenting in brand-new ways, but you carry the burden of parenting in a very different way.”* — Paul David Tripp, from “Parenting” —
- So, please understand that Ambassador Parents are consumed with the gospel from beginning to end. But Evangelism Parenting is specifically guiding your child toward salvation through the mundane elements of life.
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## III. What's Evangelism Parenting?

- **Be passionate about your child's eternal destiny.**
  - How do we know if we're not passionate enough about our kids' relationship with God? Well first, when issues come up in the home, are you more concerned with the behavior and attitude, or are you struck in that moment by your child's need of a Savior?
  - Second, when things are going well, are you happy to have an obedient child, or are you vividly aware that your respectful, A-student is still an enemy of Christ?
- **Know the gospel.**
  - This is not merely the job of the pastor or Sunday school teacher or Christian school teacher. This is primarily the responsibility of mom and dad. Sure, any born again believer has been called by God to share the Gospel with anyone who hasn't been born again . . . and that includes your child, but please understand that it's primarily your privilege.

- **Understand how the gospel affects everything in life.**
  - We need it understand how the Gospel works to conform us to Christ, how it's lived out in our words, actions, feelings, and thoughts, and how any struggle, decision, or activity can be tied back to it.
  - But don't think that until you can comfortably apply the Gospel to the clothes you wear and the foods you eat, you're incapable of being an Evangelist Parent. No, be faithful in what you know, and God will entrust you with more as you study and grow. And our kids can't afford for us to wait.
- **Speak your child's need into their life.**
  - Until we see ourselves as God sees us, we won't think we need saving. This is especially true for kids who are born into a stable home with high expectations for behavior. As they compare themselves to the rest of the world, they feel pretty good about their lives and don't see the wicked self-worship sitting on the throne of their hearts. It's so important to help our children see their needs.
    - I'm constantly reminding my kids why God gave them a mom and dad.
    - When one of them makes a poor choice, we walk them through why it was destructive and what needs to be done the next time, but we also frequently remind them that they can't do it on their own. We also tell them that foolishness is knotted up in their hearts, and that only God's Word can untangle it.
    - Many people may cringe at this because they're concerned about their child's "self-esteem," but, ladies and gentlemen, we mustn't buy into that lie. Obviously, it would be a sin to be unkind and unloving while convincing out children of their spiritual inability, but showing a person their sin and their need for a Savior is the most loving thing you can do!
    - Remember Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount. Until a person becomes convinced of their spiritual poverty, they will never submit to God.
- **Speak salvation's answers into their life.**
  - Your children are going to sin. In fact, your unsaved children cannot help but sin. This doesn't mean they're going to be as wicked as they possible can be, but it does mean that even their righteous works are like filthy rags in God's eyes. Now, I don't intend to gross anyone out, but we're all adults here, and we need to be faithful to the text. The Hebrew word interpreted filthy in this verse, actually refers to cloth soiled by menstrual fluid. You see what I mean? If I'm unsaved, even my attempts to be good are disgusting to God.
  - As your child attempts to meander through life according to their own will, in their own power, and for their own glory, you need to show them that only a relationship with God can answer the questions they have, provide the satisfaction and comfort they seek, and guarantee true spiritual success.