

TLP 74: Parents Who Think I Peaceful Parenting, Part 6

I. Peace Review

- Peace is a conditional promise of divine soul-rest powerful enough to overcome all feelings of doubt, depression, anxiety, and anger in your parenting.
- The first *Peace Prerequisite* is that we must fulfill our responsibility to God by finding our sole joy in Him.
- The second prerequisite is that we must fulfill our responsibility to others by showing our gentleness in all things because not only is God in us, He is returning soon to collect us unto Himself.
- The third requirement is that we must fulfill our responsibility to ourselves by not being anxious, but instead taking all of our cares and anxieties to God in humble and thankful trust that He will work in and through them as He's promised.
- And when we are faithful to obey God, He provides a divine peace that stations a spiritual guard over our thoughts and desires — under the ultimate authority of none other than Jesus Christ.

II. The Fourth Peace Prerequisite is Our Responsibility to Reality

- *“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.”* Philippians 4:81.
 - **True** – This word is the same one Jesus used to introduce divine truth. It encompasses all of God's absolute, unchanging, and inerrant truth. Therefore we must know His truth in order to dwell on it. This brings peace, for when a question sprouts, the truth of God hidden in our hearts provides the answer. Also, by rejecting lies, deception, and Failure Philosophies we shelter ourselves from the types of thoughts that lead to self-worship, anxiety, and doubt.
 - **Honorable** – When we think on that which good, admirable, and deserving of high esteem, we prepare our minds for peace. Honor is a vanishing species in our age. To be respected and highly esteemed for Christ-honoring reasons is almost unheard of. But when we think of honorable things the lyrics from The Sound of Music sound almost inspired:
 - **Right** – Don't let your mind dwell on wickedness! This is incredibly difficult when we slake our psyches with filth from the soiled wells of modern entertainment. Righteousness – that which in action and motivation attains to God's standards of excellence – must be the water we bathe our minds in. How can you expect to enter your parenting for the day with the remnants of that TV drama sill hanging onto your mind? Everyone in that series is using everyone else to get ahead. There's greed, sexuality, pride, and selfishness at every turn. How will a mind filled with those thoughts hope to parent peacefully?
 - **Pure** – Immaculate. Purified from every fault. The rotten apple metaphor works well here. Be careful that something that is “mostly good” doesn't crack the door for worse influences later on. If it's not purely holy, don't think about it!

- **Lovely** – This is the only time this word is used in the New Testament. It has the idea of being pleasing and agreeable. Paul has a wonderful way of layering on his adjectives in a way as to leave no room for misunderstanding. Yes, your thoughts need to be true, honorable, righteous, and pure, but they must also be lovable. Ask yourself, “*Would God love what I’ve been thinking about today?*” “*Does God love **how** I’ve been thinking today?*”
- **Reputable** – This word is similar to being honorable, but it carries the added idea of being well-spoken of. Do people who love the Lord and His truth speak well of the things that occupy my mind? This is an important reminder that wise counselors are valuable. If they don’t agree with the things that have occupied my thoughts or the ways in which I’ve been interpreting my circumstances, I must accept that my thoughts are not reputable. I won’t be at peace with disreputable thinking.
- **Excellent** – This word denotes moral excellence necessary in the out-working of faith. Paul encourages us to think on anything and everything that is excellent. “*Is there any excellence? Then think on it.*” What expectations do you have for your children, and why?
- **Praise Worthy** – As God views your mental transcript, does He turn to the angels and pronounce, “*Watch this. It’s wonderful!*”? Could He say to Satan, “*Have you considered my servant? His thoughts are praise-worthy.*” or “*Her mind is focused on what’s right.*”

I. Conclusion

- Lastly, I’m once again amazed by the all-inclusive generalities Paul uses. He’s so incredibly certain that this is the only way to glorify God and have abiding peace that he leaves no room for thinking about anything that doesn’t match this list perfectly.
- Moms and Dads, this can be done.
- Don’t shortchange God!
- If you find yourself thinking, “*That’s too hard!*” or “*I’ve tried it and it doesn’t work!*” or “*But you don’t know my kids!*” or “*That will never work!*” then your thoughts are not **true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, reputable, excellent, or worthy of praise**, and it’s no wonder you feel hopeless.
- I’m not surprised you’re struggling with depression, fear, and anger.
- Your mindset is not in line with God’s prescription for correct thinking, and you will *not* have peace as long as you entertain them.
- Accept the reality that God’s way is the only way to have lasting soul-rest.