

## TLP 76: Parents Who Do | Peaceful Parenting, Part 7

### I. Review

- Our Responsibility to God
  - At the beginning of our study we were reminded the absolute necessity of finding our joy in God. Psalm 33:1 says, “Shout for joy **in the Lord**, O you righteous!”
  - Our joy can’t be founded in things like our families, jobs, 401-k, or houses. We can’t allow our happiness to reside in obedient children, pleasant spouse, or decluttered garage.
  - As Christians who have been saved from eternal damnation and temporal impotence, how could we not rejoice in our God. And again, I say rejoice.
- Our Responsibility to Others
  - When God, His Word, and His will are the only things that bring us true happiness, we will strive to live His Word and Will.
  - Everyone around us will be beneficiaries of our gentle spirit.
  - And because we have the Holy Spirit in us and the future expectation of the return of Christ, we have all the power and motivation we need to love everyone — no matter how unlovely.
- Our Responsibility to Ourselves
  - But there will be times when we broken people living in this broken world are tempted to fear and anxiety.
  - In every single situation we must run to our highest joy — the very throne room of God and pour out our prayers and supplications. He’s the one who matters. He’s the one powerful and wise and loving enough to know what to do.
  - And I take it to Him with thanksgiving. I can do this because I’ve bathed myself in His Word, I know His promises, and I joy in Who He is and the relationship we have.
- Our Responsibility to Reality
  - God’s reality is the only reality. Everything else is a delusion.
  - Therefore, I need to align my thoughts with God’s reality.
  - I will only dwell on that which is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellence, and praise worthy. Because those are the only realities.
  - Why bother functioning off a delusion?

### II. Important Note

- Do you really want peace in your parenting? I know it’s easy to say you do, but if you’re not willing to intentionally and premeditatedly take steps to be the parents God wants you to be then you have to admit that you don’t really want God’s peace.
- Sometimes what we want is the destination without the journey. You say you want peace in your home, but you’re not willing to really rejoice in God, be gentle with your kids, shun anxiety by thankful prayer, and think in a sanctified way.
- If that’s the case, the best thing you can do is admit that you’re not really interested in God’s unfathomable peace, but that instead you really want everything to go your way and for everyone in your family to be okay with that. And you know as well as I do that that’s never going to happen.
- But if you really do want God’s peace, and you’re really interested in fulfilling your responsibility to God, others, yourself, and reality, then you’re ready for the fifth and final Peace Prerequisite.

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### III. Peaceful Parents Have a Responsibility to Their Leaders

- “*The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things,*”
- Paul puts the finishing touches on his dissertation on peace with an umbrella-like admonition to do all that Paul has revealed about our responsibilities toward God. Once again, he layers the verbs in order to leave nothing out.
  - Have you *learned* from me? Do it.
  - Have you *received* it from me? Do it.
  - Have you *heard* it from me? Do it.
  - Have you *seen* it in me? Do it.
- The surface implications are two-fold:
  - If we want peace, we mustn’t only obey the four *Peace Prerequisites* we’ve been studying, we must also attend to the *whole* of biblical teaching.
  - If we have peace, people will be able to learn from us. Paul clearly experienced the peace he’s writing about, and it’s because he glorified God with his life that he received the *Peace Promises* from God. But it’s also because he glorified God with his life that other people (including us) could learn how to have that same peace. If you’re living biblically and experiencing peace, your life will be a veritable textbook to students of peace.
- So, we see that peace is the natural and inevitable by-product of a life that . . .
  - rejoices in God,
  - loves all men because it loves God,
  - rejects anxiety because it runs to God in times of trouble,
  - thinks about only those things that God loves,
  - and strives in God’s power to glorify God in all things by maturing and growing in our sanctification.
- It’s that simple. I know, it’s not always easy — we still battle with our sin nature every moment of every day — but the Truth is not complex; it’s simple.

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