

## What Is Successful Parenting?

### I. God Calls Christian Parents to Be Stewards

- All of God's children have been tasked with stewarding a number of things. The Bible calls us stewards of God's grace, gifts, Truth, faith, and the mysteries of God.
- In addition, though we may not be specifically referred to as stewards, it's clear from Scripture that Christian parents are stewards of their children.
- Listen, these kids don't belong to us. They're God's. We've simply been tasked with "*managing the domestic concerns.*" And it's a huge responsibility. May we be as spectacular parents as Joseph was a household steward.

### II. God Calls Stewards to be Faithful

- I Corinthians 4:2, "*Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found **faithful.***"
- God hasn't called you to change your kids. He hasn't tasked you with guaranteeing a certain level of academic affluence, or laying a solid financial foundation.
- That word "faithful" means "trustworthy." Basically, you are a successful parent if you parent the way God has commanded you.
- You may not have a high-resolution, perfectly-lit, well-edited baker's dozen of Disney-themed cupcakes for your child's birthday. You may not have remembered to post a picture of your child holding a mini-chalkboard proclaiming their grade this year. You may not have matched all the paint and decorations in your child's bedroom perfectly because your budget only allows you to have second-hand furniture. And you may not have started a mom-blog to share the miracle that is your housekeeping with the internet.
- But that's okay because that's not the measure of parental success.
- Have you been faithful to the parental calling God has given everyone blessed to have children? So many of our episodes deal directly with God's expectations for our parenting, but I really want to encourage you to listen to episodes 26 and 27. It's a short series called "The Fifth Way to Parent." Those episodes will lay the groundwork for us understanding the only parenting style that glorifies God. I also encourage you to listen to our series on "Anti-Terrorism in Your Home." It starts with "Parenting a Terrorist" on episode 37. And, by all means, please stick around for episodes 90 and 92, and our upcoming series called "The Merest Christianity" which — I believe — may present the quintessential guide for biblical parenting.
- What about you? Do you parent the way God has commanded in His word? Do you parent for the reasons God has outlined? Are your goals God's goals? Are your responses a reflection of Christ?
- We parents have been called to steward our children, and in order to do that successfully, we must — I need to say that again — we must be faithful to God and His Word.
- Are you faithful? Let me ask it this way, does God trust you to parent the way He commands?