

How to Be a Truth/Love Parent

Ephesians 4:1-16

I. Walk Worthy of Your Calling as a Parent (vv. 1-6)

- We won't be parenting correctly unless we parent from a foundation of humility.
- Our parenting is supposed to be gentle. Titus 3:2 gives us a better idea of what it means when it says, "*Speak evil of no one, avoid quarreling, be gentle, and show perfect courtesy toward all people.*"
- Our parenting won't glorify God if we're not patient.
- We need to bear with our spouses and children in love. The phrase "*bear with*" has the picture of suffering or enduring something. This means that even in stressful, uncomfortable, and even painful times, we're called to parent worthily by bearing with our family in love.
- We must strive to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace in our parenting. If you compromise God's Word in order to avoid conflict in your home . . . you're sinning. The peace we pursue in our homes is not simply a lack of conflict, it's a bond that has the gospel and God's will at its center.

II. Use Your Gifts to Build Up Your Family (vv. 7-14)

- We read in verse eleven that, "*he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,*" We parents may not be apostles or prophets, but we should be evangelists to our children if they're unsaved. We also should be directly shepherding them if they're born again and actively involved in their spiritual teaching.
- We have been gifted as believers to help equip our born again children for the work of the ministry.
- We should be equipping our children to build up the body of Christ.
- We and our families should be growing in our spirituality and working to attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God. This is genuine maturity that looks like Christ.
- This maturity keeps us and our children away from foolish immaturity that's childish, tossed to and fro by false doctrine, human cunning, craftiness, and deceit.

III. The Summary: Be a Truth/Love Parent (v. 15)

- "*Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,*"
- Truth
 - There is no room for our opinions and feelings if they contradict God's Word. No tradition is so important we'll disobey the Lord's clear teaching on a subject. It doesn't matter what I think if what I think deny's God's revealed Truth.
 - If God's Word says it, we must believe it. If His Word commands it, we must obey it. If His Word teaches it, we must pass it on to our children.

- Love
 - It's not giving us any principles for our tone of voices or vocabulary. It's simply demanding that we speak only that which is in our family's best interest and in such a way that is in their best interest.
 - Of course, we must always obey God's Word. Our communicating to our children must never be unkind, impatient, harsh, or wicked. But it needn't be sirupy sweet all the time either.
 - If my child is in imminent danger, and I'm too far away to physically save them, I might scream to get their attention. It's not motivated by fear, or selfishness, or anger, it's simply the best thing for my child at that time to preserve his life.
 - Basically, our communication must submit to all the expectations for speech outlined in the Bible, but it also must be motivated by a singular desire to glorify God.
 - I can speak all "saintly" and calm, and quote verse after verse to you, but if my desire is to manipulate you into living in a way that *I* want in *my* home, then I am not parenting in a way that glorifies God, and that kind of parenting will backfire on me.
 - And because God's glory is our motivation for speaking the Truth in love, then we will be able to accomplish the goal of us growing up into Christ.

I. The Goal: A Family of Perpetual Spiritual Growth (v. 16)

- In't that the type of family you long for — a family that is knit together in Christ, equipped by God, working properly, growing, and building itself up in love?
- That is why this ministry is called Truth.Love.Parent. We cannot do the Parent part without the Truth and Love.
- Those two realities will help us be a successful parent. Nothing else will. Nothing.

Parent.

... a part of the Evermind Ministries family.