

The Most Important Thing I Can Say to Parents

I. If you're not a parent yet, consider a degree in biblical counseling.

Think about it – what's parenting if it's not intentional, premeditated discipleship? What if you went into parenting with a solid foundation of biblical knowledge *and* the ability to expertly pass God's truths on to others? Wow! Parents come to me all the time because I'm "The Counselor," but what if you didn't *need* me and people like me? Imagine a world where each parent was versed enough in God's Law they could *"teach [it] to [their] sons, talking of them when [they] sit in [their] house and when [they] walk along the road and when [they] lie down and when [they] rise up."* Deuteronomy 11:19

II. If you're a new parent who can't go back to school then you need to constantly read, listen, read, and read.

The world's parenting advice can't teach you to shepherd a child's heart, to prepare kids for Satan's attacks, or to teach children to choose a Christ-honoring spouse. The exciting news is there are amazing books and podcasts and articles from God-loving authors for basically every stage of your child's life. But remember, you need more of God's truth and less of the trendy psycho-talk. It's Bible we're after here, that is the *only* Book guaranteed to work. Isaiah 55:11 tells us, *"So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it."*

III. If you've had kids for a while and still feel ill-equipped, don't give in to hopelessness.

I've heard a milieu of parents lament that *"It's too late for us."* THAT IS A LIE OF SATAN! Don't believe it. You have a great God! Start today grounding yourself in the Scriptures, start talking about it when you sit down and take walks and before bed at night. You will change slowly, but it will make all the difference. You're not a hypocrite if you've failed in the past but genuinely want to be changed into the image of Christ now. You're a hypocrite if you wish your kids would make the right choices, but you're not prepared to do it yourself. Read, study, grow, teach.

IV. Lastly, whether your kids are grown and gone or not, pass on your knowledge of God's Word to the next generation.

Empty-housers aren't off the hook when it comes to discipling. Remember when you were that inexperienced mom who wasn't prepared to have kids? Wouldn't it have been AMAZING if a more experienced mom had poured her knowledge of God's Word into you? Fathers, how uplifting would it have been to have a mature dad bear your burdens, sharpen you, and disciple you? Be that for someone else! And you don't have to wait until you have grey hair to do this. Just, whatever you do, make sure you're using God's Word and not simply anecdotes from your past. They don't need your memories, they need God.

"Parenting should never be about your kids. Parenting must be an act of worship to God."