

Biblical Parenting Essentials, Part 2 | evaluating your parenting

I. Some children will respond to the content of your parenting by choosing to submit to and follow Christ.

- If God is the main content of our parenting, then it shouldn't surprise anyone when our kids start talking about God more, desiring to learn more about Him, and wanting to know what He has to say about their lives.
- If the Bible is the main content of our parenting, then it shouldn't surprise anyone when our kids start reading it more, memorizing it, and turning to it for guidance.
- If the Gospel is the main content of our parenting, then it shouldn't surprise anyone when our kids start reveling in the Gospel, making decisions in light of it, and sharing it with others.
- Obviously, this requires a supernatural act of God. Remember, we can't control our children's hearts. We simply make it easy to do right and hard to do wrong by creating the right atmosphere in our homes—the main facet of which is the content that comes out of our mouths. How our kids respond to the atmosphere—embracing or rejecting it—is up to them and God.
- But the biblical reality is that God uses His Ambassadors to be salt and light and draw people to Him. That means that if you are speaking truth in love and your children are submitting to God, being born again, and growing in their sanctification, it's a result of God using the truth in love you're speaking to soften their hearts and draw them to Him.
- So, in this context, the second more important part of your parenting is disciplining your children who are submitting to Christ and becoming His disciples. And the subsequent disciplining of your kids is likely an evidence of the fact that you have been parenting well. Lord willing, this is an evidence of the fact that God was using you in the process whether or not you were the one to lead your child to Christ in the moment.

II. Some children will respond to the content of your parenting by choosing to continue rebelling against Christ.

- I Timothy 3:4-5 People don't generally waste their time making a fuss about things that have no impact on them whatsoever. Children who don't believe in God—or don't know to believe in God—don't go through their day aggressively fighting the concept of God.
- If you're parenting for Christ by bringing Him, His Word, and His Gospel into nearly every parenting opportunity, then the kids who don't want to hear about, submit to, or otherwise even think about God are going to eventually push back because they won't be able to escape the constant preoccupation with Him.
- Unfortunately, many parents who wanted to glorify God in their parenting by making Him the main focus got so tired of their children pushing back that they eventually stopped talking about God, His Word, and the Gospel. They surrendered before the child surrendered.
- In a similar way that your active disciplining of your child is an evidence of the fact that your parenting content is God-centered, your active teaching, reproving, and evangelizing of your child is also evidence of the fact that your parenting content is God-centered.
- Remember, your children's rebellion is not inherently proof that your Ambassadorial Parenting is failing. You can't change anyone, and it's the pushback that proves that there was some spiritual push in the first place.
- The pushback you receive is not a reason to change your parenting content. You mustn't throw up your hands and cry, "It's not working!" Your parenting is working when you are speaking God's truth in God's love. It's glorifying the Lord and resulting in your maturity. That's the whole point.

III. Some children submit to God or rebel against God despite their parents.

- Some kids who have come to know the Lord, submit to Him, and mature beautifully despite the fact that their parents were unbelievers. Other kids are highly antagonistic toward authority even though their parents aren't strong leaders.
- Too many parents imagine that just because their kids are compliant, well-mannered, and good students, the parent's parenting must be all it needs to be. Generally speaking, however, that's not the case at all. None of the things I just mentioned are indicators of spiritual life and growth. None of those things require Holy Spirit empowerment.

IV. Biblical Parenting matures over time.

- People like to stagnate. They don't like learning, they don't appreciate the necessity of change and growth. They so often just want to be the personality-equivalent of couch potatoes. But truly biblical parenting is changing-parenting. It's not the same this year as it was the year before.
- Of course, change for change's sake isn't good change. We need to be maturing, growing, and changing into the image of God for His glory.
- Are you evangelizing and discipling your children *better* this year than you did last year? What about this month versus last month? What about this week? How about today versus yesterday? What about after you're done listening to this podcast?
- If you truly are an Ambassador of Christ, then you are a born again believer who the Holy Spirit is progressively conforming into the image of Jesus from one degree of glory to another. That means that you (and your parenting) should be growing and changing and maturing.
- You need to be speaking more consistently and accurately about God, the Bible, and the Gospel. We need to be teaching and reproofing and correcting and training better than we did before. And that's what the rest of this series is going to address.

Parent.
with AMBrewster