

Biblical Parenting Essentials, Phase 2 I methods

I. What is Reproving?

- According to Merriam-Webster, reproof is “criticism for a fault,” and *to reprove* is “to scold or correct usually gently or with kindly intent.” Unfortunately, those definitions aren’t very helpful.
- What makes this process even more challenging is that the Greek word translated “reproof” in II Timothy 3:16 is a *hapax legomena*—which means that this is the only place in the Bible where this particular Greek word is used. Thankfully, it’s grammatically related to another word that is used *far* more often, and the first time we encounter that word is in Matthew 18.
- Matthew 18:15-17 translates this Greek word, “*show him his fault.*”
- The Second Phase of Biblical Parenting is reproving, and reproving your child means that you **persuasively show them that they are wrong.**

II. Christ-honoring methods for reproving your children

- **Use the Scriptures to convince your children they’re wrong.**
 - The Scriptures are not only God’s communication to us, but It’s also the main tool God designed to mature and perfect us.
 - On the other hand, just because you use the Bible in your parenting, doesn’t mean you’re using it the right way.
 - You need to ground reproof in the reality that God is Who He says He is, not pragmatism.
 - Of course, we’re not saying your kids *will* be persuaded when you reprove them well. Each is responsible to submit to God’s truth, but we know that God’s Word always accomplishes its purposes in a person’s heart. Therefore, using the Scriptures is guaranteed to affect them in one way or another—all according to the will of God.
- **Use questions to guide your children to a biblical understanding that they’re wrong.**
 - In the first step we’re using the Scriptures to tell our kids they’re wrong. In the second, we’re using the Scriptures and an arsenal of questions to guide our kids to understand that they’re wrong.
 - This should sound familiar because this is the difference between Deductive Teaching and Inductive Teaching. We could just as easily refer to Deductive Reproof and Inductive Reproof, and the guidelines for how we choose which one in any given situation are the same for reproof as they are for teaching.
 - Remember, though, that situations involving reproof have a new layer of difficulty. Pure teaching is done in a relational context where the child and the parent are not at odds. No sin is being addressed. However, if we’re reproving, we’re doing so because the child has sinned, and that has a very different relational impact.
 - This doesn’t mean that Inductive Reproof doesn’t work, but you may find that Deduction is a far better approach at first.
- **Invite your children to accept or reject the biblical interpretation of the events.**
 - In John 11:21-26, Jesus reproved Martha and then asked her a necessary question: “*Do you believe this?*”
 - It’s not good enough to know and understand something if we don’t believe it.
 - It’s not good enough to know something, we must believe it. And it would be wise when we’ve taught and reproved our children to try to ascertain whether or not they understand and—more importantly—believe what we’ve taught them.

- **We need to make sure our kids don't just hear us, but that they also understand the biblical truths we're teaching them.**
 - Children and young adults are wonderful parrots. It's easy to blithely accept a notion and spit it back, but it's very different to be able to grasp the deeper truths that stand under the fact we've learned.
 - We don't want our kids interaction with God's Word to be superficial. It has to be deep enough to make a difference. But it won't make a difference if they don't believe it needs to.
- **We need to ask our kids if they believe the biblical truth they've learned in order to best know how to parent them.**
 - If our children say they believe what they've learned about themselves and God, then it's contingent on them to do something about it. They mustn't continue in the error of their ways. They shouldn't interpret future situations the way they interpreted this one.
 - It's an admission of belief that will lead us to Phase 3 of Biblical Parenting.
 - Also, in the future, when our kids inevitably do repeat their sinful choices, we—like Christ—can remind them, *“Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”* It's a wonderful touchstone moment to go back to, not to rub anything in their faces, but to bring back the flood of that previous conversation to bear on this situation.
 - Let's say they inform us that they don't believe what they've learned. Wonderful! Now you know how you need to parent your child.
 - Regardless of the answer, what they believe will guide the concepts you will emphasize in the future.
- **We need to ask our kids to submit to the truth they learned.**
 - Unless we've done an amazing job of teaching our the kids the difference between knowing something and believing something, they likely will think that saying they believe what they've learned is good enough.
 - But they need to be reminded that true belief results in change. So, asking them to participate with the information you taught them, to submit to it in action as well as word is going to be super important.

I. Is it ever appropriate to raise your voice when reproofing your child?

- The answer is “Yes,” it's often very appropriate. However, “No,” most of the time it's not.
- Resources
 - [Is It Okay to Get Mad?](#)
 - [When to Raise Your Voice | is yelling ever appropriate?](#)

with AMBrewster