

Biblical Parenting Essentials, Phase 2 I evaluation

I. Are you reproofing your children in God's ways for God's reasons and in God's power?

- James 1:22-25
- Do you want to be blessed in your parenting? You need to immerse yourself in the Scriptures. You need to compare your life to God's expectations, and you need to change accordingly.
- However, many people have looked into the Law of Liberty and walked away unchanged not because they defiantly rejected what they saw, but because they misunderstood the text. This is why there is wisdom in a multitude of mature, Christ-honoring counselors who will help you rightly divide the Word of truth.
- The single best way to evaluate your parenting is to open your Bible and honestly compare how and why you parent to how and why God says you must parent.

II. Are you growing more biblical in your reproof?

- If you go to the Scriptures, recognize that you're falling short in an area, and change, and then you do that again and again, you're parenting will constantly be in a state of flux.
- This is an area where we can make assumptions and be totally wrong. One reason that we easily think we're better is the fact that we actually don't think about it. We parent just like we do everything else, by feeling, by the seat of our pants and the skin of our teeth, by wafting along in the cultural trends, but we don't carefully evaluate our parenting by the Bible. So, when asked if we're a better parent this year than we were last year, it's easy to say, "Yes."
- Another reason we wrongly judge our parental trajectory is that we're using the wrong standards. Maybe we're following the world, or we're following an errant interpretation of the Bible.
- So, this leads us back to point 1. We have to know, understand, believe, and change according to the Scripture. And we need to continue that momentum day after day, month after month, and year after year

III. Are you experiencing reconciliation with your kids?

- **Warnings**
 - Just because your kids *look* like they're submitted to your reproof doesn't mean they actually have.
 - Your kids may simply want to placate you or avoid consequences, so they pretend to submit. Whether you reproved well or not, such a response is not a good evaluation of your performance.
 - You absolutely cannot move on to Phases 3 and 4 of biblical parenting until your kids *genuinely* respond to the Reproof Phase.
 - An obviously superficial or snide acquiescence to our reproof is not good enough.
 - Just because your kids genuinely submit to your reproof doesn't mean you did it the right way.
 - It's quite possible that despite the fact that you reproved poorly, the Holy Spirit still used the situation to turn your child's heart. In this case, your reproof wasn't to thank.
 - This is why we always need to circle back around to our first point. The best way to know if you're reproving well is to lean hard on the Bible's expectations for your reproof.

- **Christ-honoring reproof followed by Christ-honoring reconciliation should encourage you to continue reproving God's way.**
 - If you have carefully followed the Bible's teaching concerning reproof, and your children respond biblically, we can all praise God that He used your reproof to draw your kids to repentance.
 - And then we need to continue to grow in that reproof by further and more consistently submitting to God's expectations as well as refining and maturing that reproof. So, what evidences will there be that you're in this category?
- **Reconciliation requires reproof.**
 - There is no need to change unless there's a need to change, and we mustn't wait around for our child to recognize that something needs to change.
- **Reconciliation requires conviction.**
 - Just telling our kids something doesn't mean that the child will submit to it. Just like Matthew 5 lays out, true spiritual change starts with a realization that we are spiritually incapable, then that leads to appropriate grief, and that leads to humility.
 - The Bible says that the Spirit convicts people of sin, righteousness, and judgement. The child should be able to easily communicate the truth about their sin, the truth about an appropriate righteous response, and even the truth about the consequences they deserve for their sin.
 - Valuable responses are responses rooted in the truth of God and the love of God. A response that's not biblically truthful or loving is likely not a genuine response of true conviction.
- **Reconciliation requires confession.**
 - Confession comes in two parts. The first part is to mentally see your sin the way God sees it. This part happens simultaneously with the conviction of God. But the second part is equally important. We need to confess with our mouths the reality of our choices.
- **Reconciliation requires apology.** Romans 13:8
 - Since sin makes us indebted to others, and since we can never pay back the sin debt we owe, forgiveness is simply asking to have that debt removed.
 - Asking for and receiving forgiveness is not mystical or contractual. The verbal request and granting of the request is simply a necessary step in the reconciliation process.
- **Reconciliation requires repentance.**
 - A person can be forgiven without changing. The Bible is very clear about that, but true reconciliation requires change, otherwise the relationship will always be in a rut of sin.
 - Biblical repentance is the act of turning away from sin to righteousness. It is the actual change in behavior.
 - Christ-honoring reconciliation often involves—at bare minimum—a commitment to change.
- **Reconciliation requires forgiveness.**
 - It's contingent on you to reprove. It's contingent on the Holy Spirit to convict.
 - It's contingent on your child to confess, apologize, and repent.
 - And it's contingent on you again to grant your child forgiveness.