

TREASURING CHRIST IN THE HOME: Parenting

Psalm 127

INTRODUCTION

Children are a Blessing from the Lord

1. Man was commanded from the beginning to bear children
 - a. **Genesis 1:28**
 - b. **Malachi 2:13-16**
2. Man and wife are blessed to have a houseful of children
 - a. **Psalm 127**
 - b. **Mark 10:13-16**
3. Reproducing children in the Christian home images the gospel
4. Adopting children into the Christian home images the gospel
5. Children are a blessing from the Lord...every single time

Parenting with the Gospel in Mind

1. "Our Father..." (**Matthew 6:9**, "*Our Father in heaven...*")
2. We are adopted children (**John 1:12-13**)
3. The Purpose of marriage is to image the gospel of Christ and reproduce disciples
 - a. **Ephesians 6:1-4**

- b. If husband and wife are to image Christ's relationship with His church, then we know the mandate of the church is to make disciples, so, then, is our mandate as parents

Parenting with the Gospel in mind within the Church

1. It doesn't take a village, but it does take a church
 - a. The familial language of brothers and sisters
 - b. The discipline of God for His legitimate children is seen in discipline within the church (ref **Heb.12:7-11**)
 - c. **Titus 2:1-10**
2. Biblical leadership demands it
 - a. **1 Timothy 3:2-5,12**
 - b. Elders and deacons
 - c. Church is led by godly parents
3. We lose our identity as a gospel church if we cease to minister to orphans (James)

For those with Parenting without the Gospel

1. God is the Creator and made the family to point to Him
2. Man tries to live independent from God and distorts the view of the family because the image of God is distorted in their eyes

3. Christ has come to restore sinners to the Father, even at the expense of earthly parents
4. The response to His grace is turning from trusting in this world, even blaming it, for your own rebellion, and trusting in God the Father to adopt you through the finished work of Christ on the cross

effectiveness with children (don't be shortsighted in this)

4. Don't just attend church, live as a family within the family of God
5. Faithfully discipline your children

Practical Tips for Parenting with the Gospel

1. Have a healthy marriage...imaging the gospel in it
 - a. Living out the roles in marriage, intentionally imaging the gospel
 - b. Where there is no father and mother combination, lean on the church (entrepreneurs, create a business model so more single moms can stay at home with computer based business opportunities)
 - c. Live **Eph.6:1-4**
2. Teach them the Bible
 - a. **Psalm 78:1-8**
 - b. **Psalm 37:25-26**
3. Prioritize family without idolizing it
 - a. Where any form of daycare can be avoided, do so
 - b. If you can simplify your lifestyle in order for mom to stay at home with the children, do so
 - c. No one on their death beds wish they had worked more to gain more...they'll long for more

- a. Consistently
- b. Without malice or anger
- c. With direction (like arrows...in the way they should go)
- d. Let it sting
 - i. Consequence is a teacher
 - ii. The will must change
 - iii. Receiving discipline is as important as giving it
 - iv. **Proverbs 3:11-12**
 - v. **Proverbs 5:22-23**
 - vi. **Hebrews 12:7-11**

6. See yourselves as missionary partners in the home
 - a. Evangelize
 - b. Disciple (baptizing / teaching to observe all)
 - i. Baptizing / teaching to observe all
 - ii. For those who aspire servant leadership in the church (elder and deacon) - best training ground, common skill set, proven
 - c. Equipping them in such a way that, should God call them, they are ready to leave your care to foreign soil...for the gospel, for good.
 - d. Adoniram Judson, a baptist missionary to Burma, met a woman by the name of Ann Hasseltine just a few years before sailing east. Having known her one month, he wrote a letter to her father declaring his intentions... (From **Anderson's**, "*To the Golden Shore*")