

Gospel Parenting

Proverbs

Lesson 12 of 13

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

Lifetime movie -- Cicely Tyson and Brandi

All I ever wanted was my mom to wake me up in the middle of the night and tell me she was so glad I was her little girl

We have something deep within us telling us that our parentage is irreplaceably important

75,000 books published on the subject of parenting

Millions spent researching out biological parents v. Adoptive parents

Billions spent in counseling unravelling the knots tied by our parents in the way they have raised us

And with all our generation has spent and studied, we seem just as lost as ever

The work of Jesus provides you with the fundamental tools necessary to raise your children, and to heal the scars of your childhood.

What makes parenting difficult

What makes parenting possible

The Difficulty of Parenting

✓ Cultural Models

Do Tiger moms produces children like
Tiger Woods?

Our culture seems to only give us critiques

Tiger moms push their children, but stories of the wreckage surround us

Do I want my son to turn out like Andre Agassi or Tiger Woods

On the other hand, the self-esteem culture is also producing a terrible harvest

college students unable to handle stress or failure,

The Difficulty of Parenting

- ✓ Cultural Models
- ✓ Personal History

The Swinging Pendulum

Added to the conflicting message of the culture the conflicting desires of my heart.

Most of us look at the way we were raised and we see some glaring fault. Then we overcorrect for that fault, and cause the pendulum to swing far to far to the other side.

Helicopter parents

The Difficulty of Parenting

- ✓ Cultural Models
- ✓ Personal History
- ✓ Our Hearts

Added to the mix of a confused culture and our conflicted histories is our our heart.

Some of you seem pure to the core, part of me wishes you were the preacher. But then I guess the rest of us would just feel condemned.

The rest of us are not wonderful like that. We have something at the core of us that seems to sabotage our best efforts

Some are just too kind, and can never correct their children enough to keep the fights from breaking out

Others are just too perfect and can never allow their children the freedom to be messy enough to have fun

I'm just too intense

So no birthday party ended without a spanking

And no squabble between friends ended without me sending somebody home

The Difficulty of Parenting

- ✓ Cultural Models
- ✓ Personal History
- ✓ Our Hearts
- ✓ Changing the Child's Heart

And finally, all those things are just window dressing. Because what makes parenting really difficult is that we are not just aiming at behavioral change, we want their hearts to change. We do not want them to just act nice, play nice and do well in school when we are there watching. We want them to be loving, hard working and honorable people all the time. We want their hearts to change.

Using discipline does not change a heart, it just brings out survival instinct.

Using rewards does not change the heart, it is just a marketplace decision.

Daddy your spankings don't work -- Jesus took the spanking for that

Despite all of this, we have great hope and glorious expectations for our children. Why? Because God has not given us a blueprint, he has given us his Son.

A Blueprint only promises success when followed exactly, and failure when not

Jesus picks up all our broken best intentions and says, thank you, I can fix this, and I will take it from here

Gospel Powered Parenting

✓ God Loves your Children

Acts 2:39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.

First of all it means God loves your children. He is not looking for an excuse to cast your children into hell. He does not hate them, and he did not give them to you for some kind of punishment for sins committed in an earlier life.

God loves your children, he has made that message explicitly clear throughout the bible

Noah - Abraham - Moses/Passover - Jesus - Peter

The First way God loves your children is by giving them you as parents.

Why does that help? When I first began to parent my overwhelming emotion was fear. I am going to ruin this. If I don't do everything correctly then my kids will grow up to be selfish brats who ruin the world.

Gospel Powered Parenting

✓ God Loves your Children

✓ God is Healing all Scars

~~Revelation 7:17 For the Lamb in the midst of the~~

throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Many parents live in regret, but that results from short sightedness.

Those regrets seem to assume that the only good days any of us are ever going to have fall between the ages of 2 and 18. Now that we have ruined those years, our Children have no hope of joy.

Don't be silly. Your daughters and sons will live on for eternity, their best days are in front of them.

Right now God is healing you of the scars that have been left on you by your parents, and God is healing your children. And one day those scars will be forever healed.

Gospel Powered Parenting

- ✓ God Loves your Children
- ✓ God is Healing all Scars
- ✓ Your Performance is not your only hope

2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Your children's destiny does not rest on whether or not you follow the blue print perfectly. God did not want your children to have perfect parents, I know that because I'm looking at you. He didn't want perfection, he wanted you.

You do not need to be perfect for your kids. You don't want them to grow up continually struggling to be perfect like you. You do not want to be the yardstick by which they measure how good they are. You want them to receive the Grace and Love of Jesus pulling them away from their sins.

Only the gospel will change their hearts. And they are more likely to get the gospel from your apologies than from your perfection. They need the demonstration of repentance and faith.

D L Moody

Words to Parents

✓ Do not Idolize your children

Proverbs 22:15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

Your children are sinners. They come into the world with sin deep in their hearts. This means if you pin all your hopes and dreams upon them, you will both crash. The best you can hope for is to parent them for a while, and then when they are adults they will turn their eyes toward Jesus and you can walk side by side toward Glory together. You must not live for them, their hope must be in Jesus. And they must not live for you, they were created by God for his glory, not yours.

If you idolize your children you will

Over-discipline -- because you insist on their protection and perfection

Under - discipline -- because their disapproval will crush you

And you will over-burden them with drive to succeed. If they are your life, then their successes become your successes. Children cannot bear that weight. What if they decide they don't like soccer anymore, will you be crushed? What if they don't want to be a businessman, will you be embarrassed? Are you trying to force them into perfection for your own glory?

If they succeed, they will turn out more and more driven ever afraid of the day they will fail.

Words to Parents

✓ Do not Idolize your children

✓ Shepherd your children

Know

Guide

Feed

Protect

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Train up your child -- long term instruction, discipline, daily care

In the way he should go -- individualized, the way that is appropriate for him -- tailor made discipline and intention

Know

Guide -- see where they fit, pray toward it and give them encouragement

Feed -- fill the fireplace

Protect -- from themselves, from the world and from you

Words to Children

✓ We are on your side

Proverbs 3:11 My son, do not despise the
Lord's discipline or be weary of his

reproof, 12 for the Lord reproves him whom
he loves, as a father the son in whom he
delights.

We want for you what you want

A life that is full, joyful, and complete

Don't see our discipline as being against you. We are trying to show
you road blocks, because if you head down those roads you will not get
to where you want to go

At one time in your life we had to potty train you -- and you really
disagreed with us about that. We were right then, and we are right now.
Trust us.

Words to Children

- ✓ We are on your side
- ✓ Because We Love You, We Hate the Sin Inside You

Proverbs 13: 24 Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.

Trust us because we love you.

And trust our discipline because we love you. You see, the more you love something, the more you hate anything that threatens your beloved. Well the greatest threats to your joy lie in your own breast. The more we love you, the more we hate the liar that is inside of you. The more we love you the more we hate the sluggard who is inside you. That person inside you will ruin you, and the only thing we can do is work and pray to drive him away.

Words to Children

- ✓ We are on your side
- ✓ Because We Love You, We Hate the Sin Inside You
- ✓ Do Not Idolize your Parents

Because we love you, please put your trust in something better than us.

Please do not live your life trying to get our approval. The only approval you need comes your father in heaven.

Please do not live your life trying to prove your parents wrong. If you have a terrible parent or parents, then the temptation is to live your whole life in rebellion. My dad told me I could never do Z, I'll show him. If you live that way you are still letting him control you.

Final note -- Harold's nightmare, I can't give you a world without pain, but I can give you the gospel and that gospel will allow you to thrive despite the pain