



PARENTING

THERE IS SIN IN A CHILD'S HEART
(AND YOURS TOO)

What makes an ideal family?

It is possible to have a vision of an ideal life that doesn't address the most important things in life.

Everyone's greatest problem (and that includes children) is _____, and as a result, everyone's greatest need is a _____. (Pr. 4:23, 22:15, Matt 15:18-19, Ps 51:5)

If our greatest problem is sin, and our greatest need is a Savior... **An ideal family is one where the language and practices of the home reflect the language and practices of the gospel.**

Christian parents are commissioned as _____ of the message, character, methods of the loving and caring Heavenly Father—entrusted with...

"...the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." 2 Cor. 5:19-20

"Envision a family where there are imperfect people, many trials, and unwavering love. Imagine a home where brokenness and hope, temptations and forgiveness coexist. Where failures meet mercies that are new every morning. Where all members are in equal need and receive an equal measure of grace. Be encouraged. This is what we have all been given. Regardless of where you find yourself right now, take heart. Change can happen." - Julie Lowe, *Child Proof: Parenting by Faith, Not Formula*

A gospel picture of an ideal family leads us to four implications...

1. More _____ than _____

"Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." 2 Cor. 5:18-19

Humility > Compassion > Hope

2. More about _____ than comfort

"[God gave us the ministry of reconciliation...He] is making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." 2 Cor. 5:20

We want to always be on the lookout. Asking... "What is God doing in this moment? And, how can I be a part of it?"

"If your eyes ever see or your ears ever hear the sin, weakness, and failure of your children, it is never an accident, never a hassle, never an interruption, its always grace. God loves those children and as an act of His love, he has placed them in a family of faith. And He will reveal the need of those children to you so that you can be a tool of his rescue and his restoration." - Paul Tripp, "Mirror of Sin and Means of Grace"

3. *More _____ our children _____
their sin than against our children
because of their sin.*

“not counting their trespasses against them...” - 2 Cor. 5:19

“God sides with you against your sin, not against you because of your sin. He hates sin. But he loves you. We understand this... when we consider the hatred a father has against a terrible disease afflicting his child—the father hates the disease while loving the child. Indeed, at some level the presence of the disease draws out his heart to his child all the more.” - *Dane Ortlund*

The gospel frees us from _____ what isn't personal.

4. *More slow _____ than quick
_____.*

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” - 2 Cor. 5:17

The way of gospel transformation is not a harsh order barked, a punishment dispensed, and a quick exit. How often are asking the law to do what only grace can accomplish? Instead, we want to regularly, consistently, patiently engage our children with the language and practices of the gospel.

To encourage slow transformation over quick solutions, begin asking these questions during correction... (adapted from Paul Tripp)

1. What was going on? _____

2. What were you _____ and feeling? _____

3. What did you do in _____? _____

4. _____ did you do it/what were you seeking to accomplish?

5. What was the _____? _____