

SERMON NOTES: HOW TO PARENT WITH PURPOSE



Like Arrows

How To Parent With Purpose

Key Text: 2 Timothy 3: 14-17

I. What is a Parent's Job?

If you are parents, there are three jobs you have.

- One, to the extent that it is in your power, keep your kids alive.
- Two, help those alive children to grow into functioning adults who can support themselves and care for themselves and contribute to society.
- And three, evangelize and disciple them. Lead them to Jesus, and if they respond to the gospel, help them grow in grace.

II. A Biblical Parenting Case Study

2 Timothy 1:5, 3:14-16

Timothy was Paul's protégé, a young pastor, a godly young man. How did he become the young man he was?

2 Tim 1:5: **I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.**

Timothy's sincere faith came from the training and example of his mother and grandmother.

Notice no dad in this picture. Single parents spiritually mismatched parents can raise godly children!

2 Tim 3:14-15: **But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.**

1. Parenting is about more than principles. It's about modeling for our children what walking with Jesus looks like.

Discipling anyone, especially our children, is not just training and teaching. It's life on life.

Who we are as parents is as important as what we teach.

2. The Bible is the foundation for effective parenting.

What did Timothy's mom and Grandma do? They acquainted him with the sacred writings. They taught him the Bible. Able to make you wise. Wise for salvation.

3. The Bible is a practical source of godly wisdom.

It's in the context of teaching the Bible to our children that Paul says that **All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,**

Four things:

- Teaching – the dos and don'ts.
- Reproof – conviction of sin. Helping kids understand when their behavior is sinful.
- Correction – to set right again. How to fix things when we mess up
- Training in Righteousness – How to grow in godliness and pursue godliness

that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

4. Parenting is season of constant teaching, correcting, reproofing and training in righteousness.

5. How we train our children should change as they grow.

Newborns: we provide constant care and protection.

Toddlers to pre-teens: we begin training for self-care. We shift from caring for them to teaching them to care for themselves in age appropriate ways.

Teenagers: We begin to gradually release our children. More watching and coaching, less doing. We let them make mistakes here, and show them how to recover.

Young Adults: We release them, and we become consultants as they start making their own choices.

III. In every stage and phase of parenting, our child's spiritual development is our #1 concern.

Deuteronomy 6:1-7

¹ “Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, ² that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. ³ Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. ⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

As parents, there is a lot we have to teach our children. How to use the potty. How to tie a shoe. How to dress themselves. How to share. How to be a good friend to someone. How to handle money. How to ride a bike and swim. How to cook and do laundry. How to behave in public.

In Moses’ day, there were things like how to take care of sheep and how to plow and plant. How to protect yourself from wild animals and how to handle a sword if invaders came. How to deliver a baby in a tent.

All the practical skills of life necessary if these children are going to survive on planet earth.

But God says in Deuteronomy 6 that the children of Israel need to make sure that as a foundational priority, they teach their children how to know and love and serve and fear and trust and obey God. How to relate to Him. What He’s like. His ways. His word.

The point is that the Bible says that ahead of everything else we must teach our children, we have to teach them about God.

IV. What do kids need most from us?

1. They need parents who know and love God above all else.

If loving the Lord our God with heart and soul and might is the greatest commandment, what kids need most from a mom and dad is first to see what that looks like in someone else’s life, and second, to have that person be able to explain how it works.

Kids who are leaving the faith in college. Two reasons why.

One is because some of these kids who have grown up in solid evangelical churches have heard an incomplete, incorrect gospel message.

Here's what they've heard.

There is a God who loves you.
He wants you to be happy and have a happy, trouble free life.
If you will play by His rules, you'll have that happy abundant life.

That's not the gospel at all. And if you're here this morning and that's the gospel you've heard on TV or radio or in another church, I'm here to tell you that you ought to reject that gospel.

It's not that there aren't elements of truth in that message.

But when you ask the kids who grew up in church and have left the faith why they've left, you know what the number one reason given is? The hypocrisy they see in the lives of people who claim to be Christians but who don't give evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in their lives and who don't live according to God's word.

And many of these kids say the hypocrisy they saw was happening at home.

Kids need a mom and dad who do more than drag them to church or pray with them at bedtime. They need to know that mom and dad have a real, living, transformational, personal love for Jesus and a walk with him.

Of course, we're not going to do that perfectly as moms and dads. Which leads to the second thing kids need.

2. They need parents who teach and model what confession and repentance of sin look like.

When our kids mess up, the pattern ought to be back to 2 Tim. 3:16.

Teaching. Do they understand what and why?

Reproof. Do they understand why what they did was wrong? Why it's a sin?

Correction. Do they understand what they ought to be doing instead?

And Training in Righteousness. What can you do to help them keep from stumbling next time?

Kids need a mom and dad who can help them learn what it looks like to every day repent and re-believe the gospel, because they see mom and dad modeling that in how they live.

3. Kids need parents who love each other.

A loving, peaceful home where mom and dad love each other gives children a sense of security and emotional safety.

4. Kids need parents who are purposeful and intentional as they raise their children.

Kids need are moms and dads who recognize that a kid can get straight A's, a college scholarships, stay a virgin and stay away from drugs and still be far from God.

V. God delights to answer the prayer of the helpless parent.

Never too late to make adjustments with your children. And always keep in mind that God, the perfect parent, had sons who ran away and lived in a far country.

Parents need grace. God gives grace.