

NextGen: Raising A Generation To Love Jesus

Week 2: Parenting 101

Weekly Summary: Based on Proverbs 22/Deuteronomy 6/Ephesians 6/Colossians 3, this message reminds parents of what matters most - the training up of their children. What you do when they are young will probably (like the Proverbs) shape what they believe when they are older. So, what should you do? God gave Moses the answer. Seek God with a personal passion, based off his unbeatable promises, and then talk about that God as often as you can.

PARENTING 101: WHO DOESN'T NEED IT?

◆ Ephesians 6:4 - Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

- We are not owners of our children to rule over them.
- We are ambassadors of God to steward them in Christ.
- Fathers are primarily responsible.
- Homes without spiritually-minded dads will still look to fulfill both fatherly and motherly duties. This includes pointing out the spiritual negligence of fathers with respect, forgiveness, and love.

PARENTING 101: INSTRUCTION

- ◆ Mark 12:28b-31 - The most important [commandment] is this: “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these.

- ◆ 1 John 1:8-9, 2:1b-2 - If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us... If anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
 - Family is to be a **theological** community. (Families are to prize the study and love of God above all else.)

 - Family is to be a **sociological** community. (Families are to grow in the awareness of their neighbors’ needs and love them as they love self.)

 - Family is to be an **evangelical** community. (Families are to become acutely aware of how far short they fall in loving God and neighbor. This is to cause families to treasure the gospel of Christ.)

- ◆ Matthew 6:21, 15:18; Ezekiel 36:26 - Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also... The things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these things defile a man ... I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

- Parenting is a matter of tending to the **heart** and seeking change there.

- Changing the heart comes only by the **gospel**.
 - Heart change doesn't come by **threats**.
 - Heart change doesn't come by **guilt/shame**.
 - Heart change doesn't come by **manipulation**.

PARENTING 101: ENCOURAGEMENT

- ◆ The Lord who called you **empowers** you for this task.

- ◆ The Lord who saved you **forgives** you all failures.

- ◆ The Lord wants, above all, for you to rest in the **gospel**.

Points to Ponder

1. What's your general approach on parenting? How God and gospel centered would you say it is? What are ways to make it even more in the hopes of changing hearts?
2. How might the church serve fathers and mothers all the more by equipping them to be the primary disciplers of their own children? We'd love to hear your ideas!

Homework For Next Week: 1 Corinthians 12