

GRACE BASED parenting

Session 2

Why Well-Meaning Parenting Falls Short



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Introduction

The job of raising great kids and enjoying the process along the way has become extremely complicated.

- Our culture _____ against us.
- Sometimes our spiritual leaders _____ us.
- Our past can _____ us.
- Our kids can _____ our best attempts.

I. Some parents end up off course because of flawed assumptions about what it takes to groom a child for a great future.

A. Some parents assume that kids have enough built-in _____ structure.

– ***They don't.***

B. Some parents assume _____ to a stricter and tighter standard of behavior creates safer and better kids.

– ***Not necessarily.***

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- C. Some parents assume raising kids in a more _____ environment helps gain more favor from God.
– *It doesn't.*

II. Some parents end up off course because outspoken voices within their _____ community give arbitrary parenting options an almost “biblical” priority.

- A. Choices such as how you feed an infant, how you correct an errant child, or how you educate your child have been framed by some Christian leaders in ways that leave parents thinking that they have no other spiritual options.
- B. These narrow views of conscientious Christian parenting can cause good moms and dads to feel guilty and constantly second-guess themselves.

III. Some parents end up off course because they are raising their children within a Christian _____.

- A. It's hard to raise kids who develop a passion for God when they live in an environment that doesn't really need Him.

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- B. God has called families to serve as porch lights of faith and truth to the community around them.

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. Matthew 5:14-15

- C. Families committed to being lights in their community:

- Study the Bible more.
- Care for each other more.
- Reach out to hurting neighbors more.

IV. Some parents end up off course because they've adopted a _____ model of parenting.

- Fear-Based Parenting.
- Image-Control Parenting.
- High-Control Parenting.
- Herd-Mentality Parenting.
- Duct-Tape Parenting.
- Life-Support or 911 Parenting.

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V. Grace-based parenting provides a refreshing _____ for raising kids.

- They spend their time entrusting themselves to Christ.
- They live to know God more.
- Their children are daily recipients of the grace these parents are enjoying from the Lord.
- They tend to be far more peaceful and very much in love with God.
- They are especially graceful when their children are hardest to love.
- They tend to be extremely grateful people.
- They're seldom afraid.

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:18-19

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4

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Conclusion

Great kids don't happen by _____.

- A grace-based plan for parenting empowers parents to create an atmosphere of grace in their home, meet their children's true inner needs, build character into the core of their heart, and aim them at a truly great future.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
2 Peter 3:18

- Parents who want to raise truly great kids find their task so much easier and their efforts so much more rewarding when they parent their children in the power and influence of God's grace.

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3. Without drilling holes in a stuffed replica of your parents, which of the flawed models of parenting did your parents lean toward? How has that affected the way you parent?

- Fear-Based Parenting.
- Image-Control Parenting.
- High-Control Parenting.
- Herd-Mentality Parenting.
- Duct-Tape Parenting.
- Life-Support or 911 Parenting.

4. Realizing that no one is perfect, which of the flawed models of parenting are you defaulting to right now? What are some of the effects of that model on your child(ren)?

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Taking It Deeper

1. Read Matthew 5:14-15. What are some of the ways that you are being a light to your community? Is/Are your child(ren) participating with you in this effort? Is there a way they could be, or is there some other way you could include them to help you be porch lights of faith and truth to the community around them?

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. Matthew 5:14-15

2. Read Psalm 23. (You may want to read it in several translations.) List 2 or 3 ways you can see this Scripture speaking to you and your role as a parent.

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3. This might be a good time to decide to forgive yourself in the areas that you feel you have fallen short. Can you do that right now? Look at 2 Corinthians 5:17. What does a "new creation" mean to you as a parent who wants to embrace grace-based parenting?

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17

Bringing It Home

1. As you look at the list of some of the characteristics of a grace-based home, what is attractive to you and why?
 - A. Grace-based parents are a breath of fresh air because:
 - They spend their time entrusting themselves to Christ.
 - They live to know God more.
 - Their children are daily recipients of the grace these parents are enjoying from the Lord.
 - They tend to be far more peaceful and very much in love with God.
 - They are especially graceful when their children are hardest to love.
 - They tend to be extremely grateful people.
 - They're seldom afraid.

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Prayer:

Lord, I need your help to turn away from my flawed method of parenting. Please help me to step out in faith and trust in you as I commit to learn to love my children the way you love me. Thank you that you have forgiven me for the mistakes I have made. Help me to forgive myself and accept your grace. Amen.

Prayer Requests:

We encourage you to read **chapter two** of Tim's book, ***Grace Based Parenting***, in order to get the most out of the upcoming session of *The Truth Behind Grace*.

