

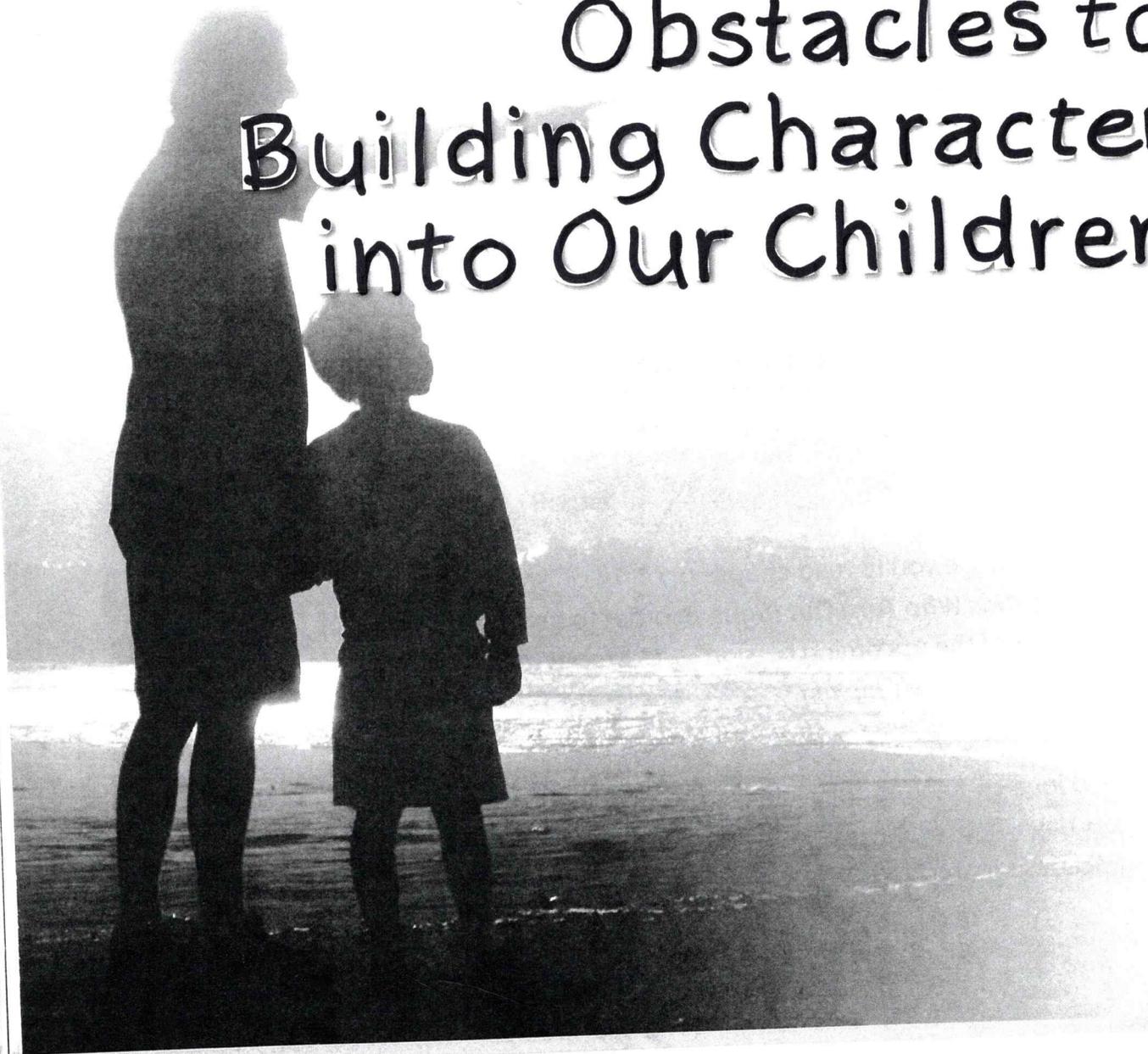
# GRACE BASED parenting<sup>®</sup>

VIDEO SERIES

Building **Character**

Session 6

## Obstacles to Building Character into Our Children



## Introduction

- Building character into our children takes time, attention, and focus.
- A consistent commitment to character building not only minimizes many of the ongoing frustrations of parenting but gives our children a head start towards a truly great adulthood.
- We need to perform an honest assessment of the standard obstacles to building character into our children's hearts.

### I. **It's hard to build character into our children when our priorities keep us pre-occupied or self-absorbed.**

- A. Because of demanding jobs and busy schedules, it's easy to want to \_\_\_\_\_ the time, attention, and focus that character building requires.
- B. Kids that aren't given careful leadership when it comes to character often develop unhealthy \_\_\_\_\_.
- Unhealthy dependence
  - Unhealthy independence

## II. It's hard to build character into our children when our values are misguided.

A. It's easy to get drawn into a misguided view of \_\_\_\_\_.

We mislead kids when we encourage them to find their security in material possessions and money.

B. It's easy to get drawn into a misguided view of \_\_\_\_\_.

We mislead kids when we encourage them to find their significance in popularity, applause, and personal recognition.

C. It's easy to get drawn into a misguided view of \_\_\_\_\_.

We mislead kids when we encourage them to find their strength in power, high control, or abuse.

*Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.*

1 John 2:15-17

### III. It's hard to build character into our children when our example is inconsistent.

A. Our \_\_\_\_\_ can work against us being a consistent example to our kids.

- It was the example our parents set.
- It's the result of years of bad habits.

B. Certain attitudes and \_\_\_\_\_ can work against us being a consistent example to our kids.

- When we are dominated by anger
- When we are dominated by fear
- When we are dominated by compromise
- When we are dominated by legalism

*You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? Have you suffered so much for nothing – if it really was for nothing? Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?*  
Galatians 3:1-5

## Conclusion

- Although every parent faces obstacles in their efforts to model character, with God's power and grace, they can be used to be the example their children need.
- A commitment to consistent values and biblical priorities assures our children that our example is worth following.

## Making This Yours

How did you do implementing the one practical application you committed to in the previous session?

## Getting It Started

1. Think back on your childhood. What do you think your parents had going for them when it came to building character into their kids that is missing or diminished in today's culture? How did your parents do on building character into your heart?

2. What are some of the pitfalls that you want to help your child avoid by developing character into their lives? People with very strong character still go through tough times. What specific ways will character help your child when they encounter failure or difficult circumstances?
  
3. We all know people who developed an unhealthy dependence or independence in relationship to their parents. What are some of the ramifications of these unhealthy attitudes?
  
4. What are some examples of strong character that your parents modeled to you? How are they affecting you and your family now? Give an example of something you hope your children are taking note of and will imitate from your character.

# Session 6

## Obstacles to Building Character into Our Children

### Taking It Deeper

1. Tim says it is hard to build character into our children when our values are misguided. How are you doing at avoiding the lures of our culture's values? What more can you do?

Misguided view of security = material possessions and money

Misguided view of significance = popularity, applause, and personal recognition

Misguided view of strength = power, high control, and abuse

What does 1 John 2:15-17 say we parents need to do to avoid the misguided values of our culture? What are some of the things involving character building that align with the "will of God?" See also Micah 6:8 below.

*Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.*

1 John 2:15-17

*He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8*

2. We are reminded that certain attitudes and behaviors can work against us as we try to be a consistent example to our kids (i.e. anger, fear, compromise, and legalism). How does the encouragement from the following scripture passages tell us to combat each of these attitudes or behaviors that are obstacles to a consistent example of good character?

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23*

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8-9*





## **Bonus Section for Single Parents, Blended Families, and Other Unique Family Configurations**

1. Am I doing what I can to remove residue from the past that is distracting me from carrying out the principles of this session? If there is more I can do, what am I going to do about this?
  
2. When it comes to applying the principles of this session, how am I going to deal with the additional stress on my family that is caused by:
  - Added Fatigue
  - Financial Pressure
  - Guilt
  - Unresolved Anger
  - Regret
  - The Reactions of My Children
  
3. Regarding this session, who can I count on to come alongside of me with encouragement and assistance? How am I going to communicate my needs?

# Obstacles to Building Character into Our Children

## Prayer

Father, thank you that I am not on my own when it comes to instilling character into my children's hearts. May my own life be an illustration of the things that really matter here on earth and for eternity and may my children ultimately find their security, significance and strength in you. Please don't let me short-change the time, attention, and focus that character building requires. Help me to lay my own failures and my past at the foot of the cross and look forward to the future with you and my children. Amen

Prayer Requests:

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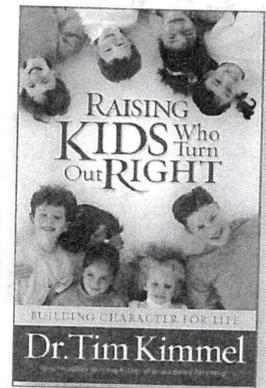
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We encourage you to read **chapter 15 and the epilogue** of Tim's book, *Raising Kids Who Turn Out Right*, in order to get the most out of the upcoming session — *Restoring Your Legacy*.



Being a grace-based parent is not easy, but you can do it! Go to [gracebasedparenting.com](http://gracebasedparenting.com) for some encouraging tips.