

GRACE BASED parenting

Session 9

The Freedom To Be Candid



Aim them at True Greatness

Build Character
Into Their Hearts

Atmosphere of Grace

Freedom
To Be
Candid

True Inner Needs

Secure
Love

Significant
Purpose

Strong
Hope

Introduction

Truthfulness and forthrightness are supposed to be anchor tenants of an atmosphere of grace.

- A. Because people tend to communicate the uncomfortable issues within relationships from the platform of their feelings, graciousness is often forced out of the picture.
 - B. To keep this from happening, grace-based families need a brand of honesty that consistently frames painful truth in a way that helps rather than harms. Candor is that brand of honesty.
 - C. There is a high degree of fairness brought to bear within the true definition of *candor*.
- I. **The third way parents can create an atmosphere of grace is to give children the freedom to be _____.**
- A. Candor allows for a verbal give-and-take between parents and a child that promotes honesty dipped in _____.
 - 1. A grace-based atmosphere works to create a careful forthrightness that guards the other person's dignity.
 - 2. A grace-based atmosphere encourages children to talk about the deep, and sometimes troubling, issues they are working through in a way that builds them up and makes them better people.

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...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.
Philippians 2:12b

- B. Candor provides a safe forum in which children can air their doubts, disappointments, and even their misguided _____.
1. During these times, children need parents who _____ and spend time on their knees.
 2. Running truth through a filter of love moves honesty to the more _____ level of candor.
 3. If the family atmosphere is dominated by grace, children will not be defined by their struggles and controlled by the powers of darkness.
 - **Strident, legalistic homes** set children up to be critical.
 - **Fear-based families** set children up to be intimidated.
 - **Lawless homes** set children up to be dishonoring and self-absorbed.

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

4. Grace-based parents _____ their children to openly and respectfully share their opinions.

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II. Grace requires that we exchange words about touchy subjects with a commitment to help – even heal – the other person.

- A. We need to create an easy way for them to voice the cries of their hearts so we can help them process issues adequately.
 - 1. Grace makes room for children to tell their parents things about themselves that parents might not be excited to hear.
 - 2. Grace makes room for children to walk with their parents through adult issues they are struggling with such as sex, substance abuse, or spiritual doubts.
 - 3. Grace makes room for children to tell parents frustrations they are having with them as parents.
 - 4. The best way to ensure that our children will speak respectfully to us is to make sure that we speak respectfully when we are voicing our disappointment with them.

See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. Hebrews 12:15

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:6

Conclusion

Children brought up in grace-based homes enjoy a comfortable and easy outlet of communication with their parents.

- Regardless of age, children need to know that they can communicate the deepest struggles within their hearts without worrying about it costing them in the future.
- Allowing kids to be respectfully candid with their parents sets them up to enjoy an adulthood without regrets.

Making This Yours

How did you do on implementing the one practical application you committed to doing this week based on the previous session?

Getting It Started

1. Have you ever been the victim of toxic honesty? How did it make you feel?

2. Why does it make us nervous as parents when our child(ren) voice(s) doubts about their spiritual convictions? What does our anxiety say about our view of the Holy Spirit?

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3. What are some of the messages we communicate to our child(ren) when we respond to their candor with high control, belittling, bullying, or triteness? What can we do that will encourage them to approach us again in candor?
4. If a colleague or friend disagreed with you, how would you want them to handle the disagreement?

Taking It Deeper

1. How do you think fathers and mothers exasperate their child(ren) when it comes to the give, take, and honor that is supposed to be associated with candor? What are some ways that you can instruct and train a child without reacting, controlling, or intimidating?

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

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2. Have you ever had a heated discussion with God, similar to the one Moses had referenced below? What was the outcome? How did that affect your faith?

"I have seen these people," the Lord said to Moses, "and they are a stiffnecked people. Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them." But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God..."Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people"...Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened. Exodus 32: 9-14 (Excerpted)

Bringing It Home

1. After learning about the importance of candor in a grace-based home, how are you better prepared to respond to your child(ren) if they confess some sort of struggle or sin in their life?

2. What are some ways that you are going to encourage candor in your family?