

GRACE BASED

parenting

VIDEO SERIES

Building **Character**

Session 7

Restoring Your Legacy



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Introduction

- The most important factor in building great character into our kids' lives is our personal capacity to consistently model great character in our own lives—especially when we're under pressure.
- We're going to refer to this character capacity as our "C-Quotient".
- In this lesson, we want to learn how to deal with some of the people and events in our past that may have undermined our ability to build strong character into our children's hearts.

I. The way we were raised and treated by key people in our past plays a very significant role in our C-Quotient.

A. The sins of omission or commission of people in our past can be a _____ to developing stronger character within our own hearts.

- Your parents seldom affirmed your work or efforts.
- You were given very little affection.
- Your father seldom told you that he loved you.
- You were seldom allowed to express the deep feelings of your heart.
- Your parents went through a divorce.

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- You were abused or assaulted.
 - You were rejected by a former spouse.
- B. Our ability to build character into our children is undermined if we fail to process the _____ of the key people in our past.
- Because you were seldom praised, you might struggle with feelings of insecurity.
 - Because you weren't given much affection, you might have difficulty responding to your spouse and children.

II. Regardless of how we were raised or treated in the past, we need to take deliberate steps to make sure this doesn't undermine our ability to develop a high C-Quotient.

- A. We need to _____ that a problem exists.
- Recognizing how we've processed problems in the past puts us in the best position to address their affect on us in the present.
- B. We need to take _____ to minimize past damage.
- We need to pray and ask God for courage.

- We need to recognize this is an act of love towards the people who have let us down in the past and the people we are harming in the present.

C. We need to _____ the people who have let us down.

- Forgiveness offsets the build-up of bitterness.

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

- Forgiveness frees us up to move on with our lives and focus on building strong character into our hearts.
- Forgiveness doesn't mean that the people who may have harmed us in the past are off of the hook for what they did; they're just off of our hook, that's all.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Romans 12:17-19

III. Grace based parents treat their children the way God treats His by building character into their hearts.

- A. These character traits insure that a child will thrive no matter what the future holds.
- B. Raising kids who turn out right is the privilege and the responsibility of every parent.

Conclusion

- If we want to raise kids who turn out right, we need to build strong character into their hearts.
- The primary way we do this is show them what great character looks like in our own lives.
- God's grace is available to anyone who wants to turn a poor legacy into a legacy of love ... a legacy that lasts forever.

Since my youth, O God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come.

Psalms 71: 17-18

Making This Yours

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

Getting It Started

1. When life gives you a big shove, what spills out? How do you usually respond under pressure? Is it in a way that you want your kids to emulate? Can you share with the group a time when you blew it and would love to re-do that moment?

2. Are there some significant ways that key people in your past undermined your ability to develop a high C-Quotient? Are these errors of omission or commission still affecting you today? If so, in what way? Have you been able to overcome any of them? How?

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3. What do you think holds people back from dealing with their past? What are the consequences? Is there someone in your past that you need to forgive for putting obstacles in your heart to developing a high C-Quotient? What are the steps you need to take to do this?

4. Obviously we cannot rewrite the past, but we can take action that affects our present and future. What can you do now to change the way your past has affected your C-Quotient? Discuss areas such as insecurity, inability to show affection, bitterness, lack of a good role model, and feelings of inadequacy or failure.

Taking It Deeper

1. According to David's words in Psalm 18, what are some of the benefits of having a high C-Quotient? Can you think of a personal example of how these scriptures have proven true in your own life?

The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.

To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless, to the pure you show yourself pure, but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd.

You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.

You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.

With your help I can advance against a troop, with my God I can scale a wall.

Psalm 18:24-29

