

GRACE BASED parenting

Session 3

The Truth Behind Grace



Introduction

Grace helps parents maintain _____ in the midst of so many competing concerns and demands.

- A. When a parent enforces rules with a strident and heavy hand, they tip into the discouraging style of **legalistic** parenting.
- B. When a parent takes kindness and accommodation of their children's wants to toxic levels, they tip into the debilitating style of **license-based** parenting.
- C. A grace-based home sets high standards for children without falling into the extreme traps of legalism on the one side and license on the other.

Grace makes it a lot easier to keep the bubble in the middle.

- D. Grace is the ideal plan for raising truly great kids.
- I. **Grace-based parents avoid a _____ attitude towards morality as well as improperly responding to a child's unique behavior.**
 - A. **Legalism**
 - Legalism imposes _____ rules and man-made expectations on an equal plane with rules and standards God outlines in the Bible.

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- Legalism _____ grace.

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

B. License

- License lacks clearly defined rules and standards.
- License _____ grace.

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Romans 6:1–2

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say, "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. Titus 2:11-14

II. Grace-based parents view their children the same way God views His.

- Grace doesn't deal with children according to their sins.
- Grace doesn't focus its attention on what is wrong with a child.
- Grace doesn't measure a child's value according to how well they adhere to a list of moral and spiritual laws.
- Grace does not revert to condemnation, traffic in guilt, or leverage with shame.
- Grace sees children according to what they can be rather than what they can do.

III. There is an inseparable relationship between grace and _____.

- A. A truly grace-based home is a home that holds up truth that is tempered by grace and practices grace that is tempered by truth.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One, and Only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1, 14

- B. The graceful _____ between rules and relationship empowers parents to maintain strong moral standards without having to jeopardize their heart connection to their children.

- Rules without **relationship** leads to **rebellion**.
- Relationship without **rules** leads to **resentment**.

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Conclusion

Children need parents who administer grace within the context of clearly defined biblical and moral boundaries.

- Truth is a clear light that illuminates our children's way through the dark and shadowy corridors of youth.
- Grace is the heart commitment to keep that light shining brightly no matter what.

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

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3. Looking at the following list, how is the typical “Christian” model of parenting doing as far as loving children the way God loves His? Have you fallen into some of the traps that keep you from loving your kids this way? How?

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- Grace sees children according to what they can be rather than what they can do.
- Grace's power is in what Christ can do in children, for children, and through children.

4. If you could only have two rules in your house, what would they be? How would you gracefully enforce those rules?

Taking It Deeper

1. Based on the Scripture below, does God's grace give us permission to do whatever we want? What does God's grace call us to do? What does that look like for you on a daily basis?

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2. When you live your life with a balance between grace and truth, how do you think your children benefit? What consequences have you experienced or observed when having one but not the other (grace or truth)?

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Bringing It Home

1. If grace is like a carpenter's level that shows the balance between being too strict or too lenient, what would your carpenter's level for the past 24 hours of parenting look like? Why?
2. As the saying goes, "Are you putting your money where your mouth is?" How are you personally "letting your light shine" before your child(ren) so that "they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven"?
3. How has this session challenged your perceptions and/or assumptions about parenting?
4. As you commit to being a grace-based parent, what is one thing you are going to do this week to put into practice what you learned in this session?