

GRACE BASED parenting

Session 10

The Freedom To Make Mistakes



Align them of True Grace

Build Character
Into Their Hearts

Atmosphere of Grace

Free
To M
Mist

True Inner Needs

Secure Love	Significant Purpose	Strong Hope
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The Freedom To Make Mistakes

Introduction

How parents respond to what happens inside the walls of their home does more to affect the outcome of children's lives than any other single factor.

- A. A family of origin creates a group identity that ends up defining everyone in that home individually.
- B. Parents have a huge responsibility to pay attention to the kind of choices their children are making and the assumptions that drive those choices.
- C. Grace-based parents realize that they walk on feet of clay. This makes them a lot more sensitive to their children when those children disappoint them.

I. The fourth way parents can create an atmosphere of grace is to give their children the freedom to _____.

- A. A grace-based atmosphere provides the optimum conditions for dealing with our children's sin.
 - Grace utilizes a strong connection to their heart rather than fear or _____ to motivate them to righteousness.
 - Grace doesn't lower standards – if anything, grace is a higher _____.

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- B. Pleasing God is contingent on a person's faith in Him, not on their ability to maintain a righteous and _____ standard.

And without faith it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:6

...the righteous will live by faith. Galatians 3:11

- C. God wants a _____ to obedience that comes from a love for Him and a trust in Him.

II. **Strident, legalistic, and fear-based families undermine a child's ability to develop a commitment to righteousness that comes from a deep love for God.**

- A. These types of homes promote obedience to a _____ rather than obedience to God.
1. In these homes, a child's ability to obey God is dependent on their level of personal will-power rather than a clear understanding of their own weaknesses and a growing love for and trust in God.

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

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I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 18:9-14

2. Guilt and fear can plague children in these homes without the children ever falling into sin.

B. Graceless homes make it very difficult for children to utilize the presence and _____ of God to gain victory over their bent toward sinful behavior.

III. Grace-based parents don't over-react when their children struggle to do the right thing and make the right choices.

A. In grace-based homes, parents don't preoccupy themselves with trying to keep sin out of their homes.

1. Grace-based homes assume kids will struggle with sin and teaches them to tap God's power to help them get stronger.

2. This attitude helps parents show their kids how to find greater _____ when it comes to their sin.

3. Grace is committed to bringing children up from their sin; legalism puts them on a high standard and works overtime to keep them from falling down.

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- B. Grace understands that the only real solution for our children's sin is the work of _____ on their behalf.
1. You can encourage your children to _____ with their sin out in the open where you can talk about it and direct them to the power of Christ.
 2. It is easier for them to have victory when we can help them through their struggles.

If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared. Psalm 130:3-4

- C. Grace avoids condemnation.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. Romans 8:1-3

1. When children have the freedom to make mistakes, they adopt a humble attitude, experience _____, and express a desire for forgiveness.

Conclusion

Grace-based homes provide the ideal context for kids to process the best and worst of childhood.

- A. Grace-based homes meet a child's true needs for security, significance, and strength, and use each day to meet these needs with love, purpose, and hope.
- B. They are homes where young and restless hearts are free to be different, vulnerable, and candid.
- C. They are homes where children are allowed to struggle with their beliefs and make mistakes on the way to finding their ultimate completion in Jesus Christ.

Remember:

- Grace is not so much what you do, but how you do it.
- Grace is simply treating your children the way God treats His.

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. We all make mistakes. Can you give an example of when someone showed you incredible grace? Did it make you want to become a better person, or did it give you permission to continue in your mistake?

2. In your own words, explain the difference between license and grace? If we make our standard for righteous behavior "pleasing God," are there some taboos and hang-ups about "Christian" standards that you may have to let go of? Are there some attitudes of the heart that you may have to address?

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Taking It Deeper

1. Tim reminds us that the only real solution for our child(ren)'s sin is the work of Christ on their behalf. Although it is the parents' responsibility to enforce rules and encourage good behavior, how can we avoid the legalistic trap of only being concerned about their behavior at the expense of their heart?

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:1-4

2. How has accepting God's grace and becoming a child of God changed your life? Take a moment to write out a prayer for the salvation of your child(ren).

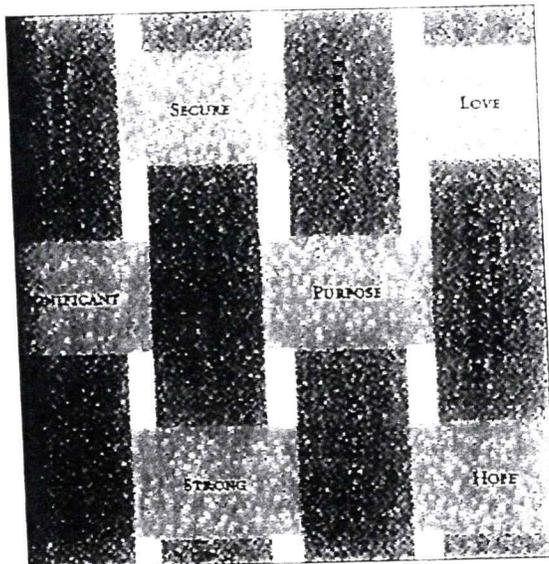
How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! 1 John 3:1a

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Bringing It Home

1. Looking at the tapestry below, what piece have you learned the most about in this DVD study? What piece is requiring you to make the most adjustments in your home? What piece would you like prayer for to implement into your own life?

a MATRIX FOR GRACE-BASED PARENTING



2. Are there some conversations or actions you can take with your child(ren) to show them your own need for Christ's forgiveness and to open up the door for them to dialogue about their struggles with sin?

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3. 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?

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? What am I going to do about this?

2. When it comes applying the principles of this session, how am I going to deal with the unique difficulties in my family that are brought on by:
 - Fatigue
 - Anger
 - Finances
 - Regret
 - Guilt
 - Children's suffering

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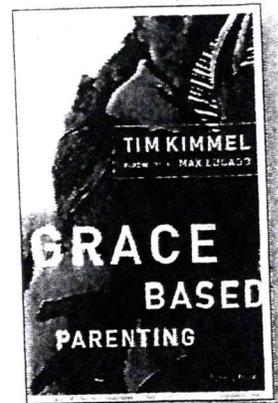
3. Regarding this session, who can I count on to come alongside of me with encouragement and assistance? How am I going to communicate my needs?

Prayer:

Lord, thank you so much for this study on grace-based parenting. Thank you that you give us a secure love, a significant purpose, and a strong hope, and thank you that you help us build those into our own children. Help us as we create an atmosphere of grace in our homes by giving our children the freedom to be different, vulnerable, candid, and make mistakes. We need your strength and guidance as we love our children the way you love us – with grace. Amen.

Prayer Requests:

Chapter Eleven of Tim's book, **Grace Based Parenting**, provides a fitting conclusion to this study. We recommend you read his final remarks titled, "**Evening Grace**"...



Appendix

How To Become A Friend Of God By Acts 1

GOD LOVES US

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

We matter to God. He made us, and He wants to have a relationship with us.

WE ARE SINFUL AND SEPARATED FROM GOD

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

But we've rebelled against God. Whether actively or passively, we've all disobeyed Him. And our sins have separated us from Him and broken off the relationship.

THE ULTIMATE CONSEQUENCE OF SIN IS DEATH

For the wages of sin is death... Romans 6:23a

Besides causing separation from God, the sins we have committed must be punished, and the penalty we owe is death. This means physical death as well as spiritual death – eternal separation from God for eternity in a place called Hell.

How To Become A Friend Of God By Accepting His Grace

JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD

For Christ died for sins once for all...to bring you to God. 1 Peter 3:18

The good news is God loves us so much that He provided a bridge over which we can find forgiveness, restore our relationship, and spend eternity with Him in heaven. He built it by coming to earth as one of us and dying on the cross to pay the death penalty we owed. But it's not enough to know about this, or even agree with it...

WE NEED TO RECEIVE CHRIST PERSONALLY

...to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12

God has provided this bridge back to Him, but we need to respond to Him by crossing to the other side. We do this by humbly admitting to God that we have rebelled against Him, and we need His forgiveness and leadership. This simple act of trust and obedience results in our being pardoned and our debt being paid. By faith through prayer, you can receive Christ right now. If the following prayer expresses your desire, pray it now.

THE PRAYER OF RESTORATION

Dear Jesus, I know that I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross and paying the price for my sins. I admit that I have fallen short of Your standards and ask You to forgive me. Thank You for your forgiveness. Please become the leader of my life and shape me into the person You want me to be. Amen.