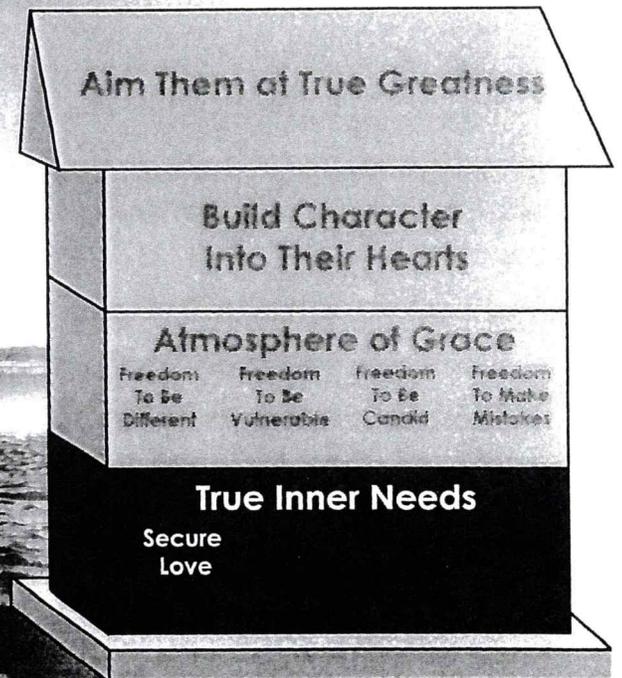
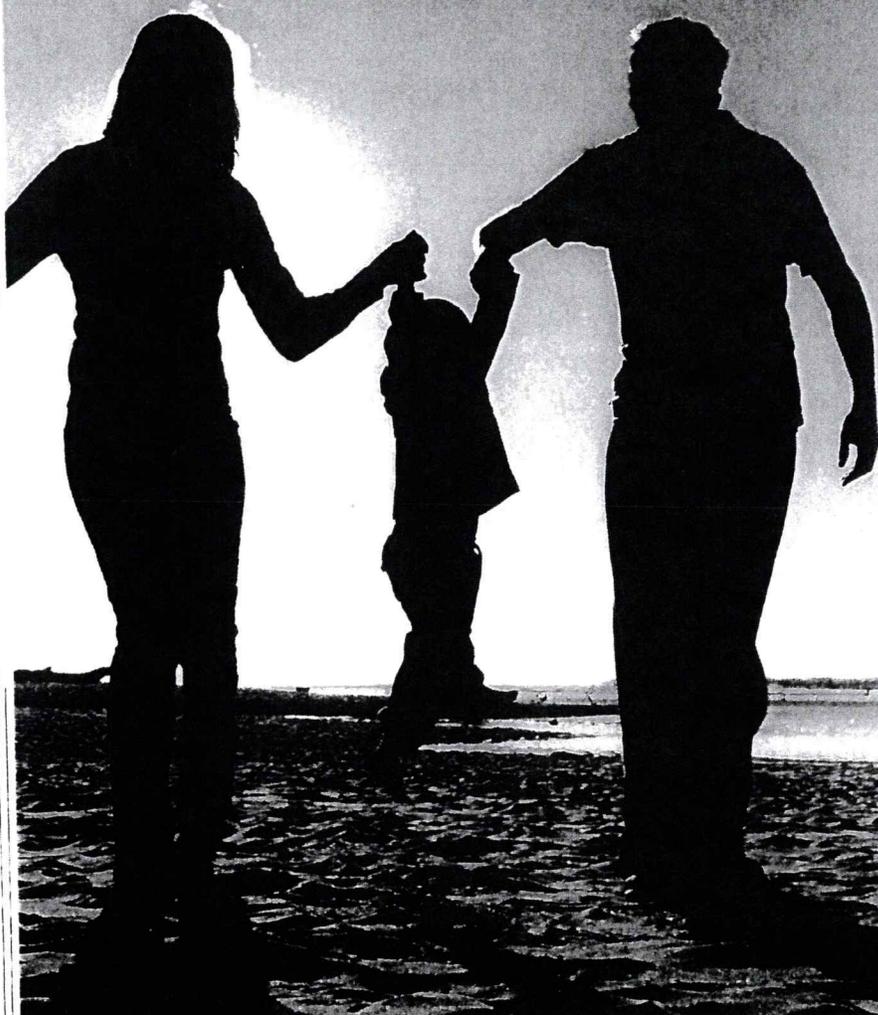


GRACE BASED parenting

Session 4

A Secure Love



Introduction

All children long for a love that is secure.

- A. Every child is born with three fundamental, driving inner needs:
True Needs.
1. A need for *security*.
 2. A need for *significance*.
 3. A need for *strength*.
See appendix on page 122 to see how satan appealed to these needs in a counterfeit way.
- B. Grace-based parents equip their children for a much more effective and meaningful future when they use each day to give their children:
1. A Secure _____.
 2. A Significant _____.
 3. A Strong _____.
- C. Every word you say, every decision, and every _____
is an opportunity to meet these three true needs.

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:7-11

I. **Many children have a difficult time gaining secure love from their parents because that love is _____.**

- A. Some children feel that they have to _____ for their parent's love.
- B. Some children feel that they have to _____ their parent's love.
- C. It's much easier to transfer a secure love to our child's heart if we work from a clear _____ of love.

***Love is the commitment of my will
to your needs and best interests,
regardless of the cost.***

II. There are three powerful ways to build a secure love into a child's heart.

A. We need to _____ them as they are.

1. Children feel accepted when we appreciate the things about them over which they have no control:

- Their gender
- Their IQ
- Their mannerisms
- Their learning styles
- Their physical features
- Their physical abilities
- Their emotional capacities

2. We accept our children when we model the same endearing love that Jesus had.

Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. Matthew 19:14, NASB

B. We need to make sure they know they are _____ with a loving and honoring home.

1. Homes of honor see each child's time, skills, and dreams as gifts to be cherished and stewarded carefully.
2. Homes of honor still have room for sibling rivalry and occasional disappointments, but for the most part, these are homes that show respect for a child's uniqueness and vulnerabilities.

The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him. Proverbs 20:7

C. We need to give them regular and generous helpings of

_____.

1. Every child was born to respond to meaningful touch.
2. The hugs and kisses that children receive from their parents becomes a reservoir of security in their hearts.
3. Both boys and girls need affection from both their mother and their father.

*Taking a child, he set him before them, and **taking him in His arms**, He said to them, "Whoever receives one child **like this** in My name receives Me..." Mark 9:36-37a, NASB (emphasis added)*

Conclusion

A secure love prepares them for a future of true greatness.

- Satan would love to help your child gain their sense of inner security from counterfeits like popularity and applause.
- Grace-based parents transfer a secure love to their child by accepting them as they are, creating a loving and honoring spirit within their home, and giving them generous helpings of affection.

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:8-10

Making This Yours

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

Getting It Started

1. How has the lack or presence of a secure love in your life affected who you are today?
2. What would your child(ren) say they are competing against for your love and attention?
3. How may you have inadvertently given your kids the impression that they have to do certain things to earn your love?

4. What part of Tim's definition of love is hardest for you to carry out? Why?

"Love is the commitment of my will"

"To your needs and best interests"

"Regardless of the cost"

Taking It Deeper

1. Based on 1 John 4:7-11, we should be compelled to love others because of God's great love for us. What are some of the ways God loves you that motivate you to, in the same way, love others?

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:7-11

2. As you look at the verses in Mark below, put your child in Jesus' arms. How should you be receiving and loving your child like Jesus is?

*Taking a child, he set him before them, and **taking him in His arms**, He said to them, "Whoever receives one child **like this** in My name receives Me..."*

Mark 9:36-37a NASB, (emphasis added)

Bringing It Home

1. When it comes to instilling a secure love into your children, Tim says they feel secure when we accept the things about them over which they have no control. As you look at the list below, put your child's name next to the area(s) that you need to work on accepting in them. Next to their name, put a specific action you will take to convey your acceptance.
 - Their gender –
 - Their IQ –
 - Their mannerisms –
 - Their learning styles –
 - Their physical features –
 - Their physical abilities –
 - Their emotional capacities –

2. How are you doing at giving regular and generous helpings of affection to your child(ren)? List each child and next to their name, put a new or more abundant way you are going to communicate a secure love to them through godly, meaningful affection.

- _____ -
- _____ -
- _____ -
- _____ -
- _____ -

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 have learned in this session?

Prayer:

Lord, thank you that you love us with an unconditional love – there is nothing we can do to earn your love or make you love us more. As I commit to being a grace-based parent, help me to instill that kind of secure love into the heart of my child(ren). Forgive me for the ways I have fallen short, and thank you so much that love can cover a multitude of mistakes. Amen.

Prayer Requests:

We encourage you to read **chapter four** of Tim's book, ***Grace Based Parenting***, in order to get the most out of the upcoming session of *A Significant Purpose*.

