

Sunday, September 10, 2017

**Introduction and Chapter 1: Calling**



- Objective:
1. Get to know each other
  2. Get to know the book

**“PARENTING: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family”**

**OPENING QUESTIONS:** Who are you as a parent?

Your name and Ages of your children

What is one thing (good or bad) you learned from your parents about God?

**INTRODUCTION: AMBASSADORS**

This book is about: GOSPEL PARENTING and what P.D. Tripp calls being an AMBASSADOR of God in parenting your children.

**Purpose of the Book**

“This will not be a book of practical strategies for dealing with children at the various ages of their development. This book will not provide practical steps for dealing with the kinds of things every parent faces. This book is meant to be a reorienting book. It is meant to give you a new way of thinking about and responding to everything that will be on your plate as a parent. This book is meant to give you vision, motivation, renewed strength, and the rest of heart that every parent needs. It is meant to give you the big gospel picture of the task to which the Savior has called you.” (p.12-13)

**Understanding the different between Ownership Parenting and Ambassadorial Parenting**

Questions from the Video clip

What is a way that God has helped you in your parenting?

Or How did this video clip comfort you in your role as a parent?

**We get in God's way!**

“The thing that constantly gets in the way of our ambassadorial calling as parents is us! [because we all want control] Humbly confessing this is the first step in your ambassadorship.” (p.16)

**Problems of Parenting p.17-20** ( a great section of the book! Read it!)

P.D. Tripp says we often put the following things before our kids or we parent by them. What do you think?

- Identity** (Owner way vs. Ambassador way)
- Work** (Owner way vs. Ambassador way)
- Success** (Owner way vs. Ambassador way)
- Reputation** (Owner way vs. Ambassador way)

Question for table discussion: Which of the above might be most tempting for you to put before your kids or influence your parenting?

All of these get us in some way or another. It's okay. Admit it. We need God's help and He is here to help, especially as we admit our need for His help. *“This book is for you. It is meant to yank you out of the daily grind and to consider the big picture of what God is inviting you to be a part of as He works in the hearts and lives of your children.”* (p.20)

## Judging Values

### Chapter 1 CALLING

**Principle:** Nothing is more important in your life than being one of God's tools to form a human soul.

**What is our calling?** Our calling as parents is to be God's "agents-on-hand for the forming of a human soul." (p.24)

**We are parents of values.**

"As beings made in God's image, we do not function by instinct. Rather, we are value -motivated human beings." "Your words, your time commitments, your finances, your emotional highs and lows, your relationships, and your spiritual habits together form a portrait of what is really valuable to you." (p.25)



"Think with me for a moment; if I were to watch with you the video of your last two months, what would I conclude is of true value to you? Or, if I were to watch the last few months of your parenting your kids, what would I say about the level of importance given to this foundational task that God has assigned to you?" (p.25)

#### Value Judgment ACTIVITY:

Look at the family photos provided. It's okay. Be a judge in this activity. **What would you say is most important to these families**

#### Many of today's parents have the wrong values. (pp.25-27)

##### Possessions

"Parents who are too controlled by possessions (houses, cars, lawns, furniture, art-work, etc.) tend to be so busy acquiring, maintaining, financing, and protecting their possessions that they have way too little time to invest in their children in the way God intended." (pp.25-26)

- mom who's worried more about the stain on the couch than her son's soul
- dad who's more focused on shine/maintenance of car than his daughter's heart

→ Do physical things get in the way of, or create needless tension in, your parenting?

##### Success

"God wired us with a desire for success, designed us to create, made us to be builders, managers and doers. ... But like possessions, this very good, God-created thing can become a bad thing in your life if it becomes the ruling treasure it was never meant to be." (26) "Thousands and thousands of children are being handed over every day to people they don't know because success in work and career has become too important for their parents." (26)

→ Has the value of career success impacted your commitment to the work God has called you to as a parents?

##### Ministry

"I am deeply persuaded that for many people, it is their commitment to ministry that constantly gets in the way of doing what God has called them to do as parents. ... they accept another speaking engagement, another short-term missions trip, another ministry move, or yet another evening meeting thinking that their values are solidly biblical, when they are consistently neglecting a significant part of what God has called them to. Sadly, their children grow up thinking of Jesus as the one who over and over again took their mom and dad from them." (27)

→ Do ministry decisions and commitments make it hard for you to faithfully do your work as a parent?

**What does God value? PARENTS!**



What is our calling according to Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 6:20-23?

Four Great quotes from pages 30-31

"Your work as a parent is a thing of extreme value because God has designed that you would be a principal, consistent, and faithful tool in His hands for the purpose of creating God-consciousness and God-submission in your children."(p.30)

**"You could argue that the chief reason God put parents in children's lives is so that they would know Him."** (30)

"The most important thing that a child could ever learn about is the existence, character, and plan of God." (30)

"Children who don't acknowledge God will act as if they are God and will resist the help and rescue that God has provided for them through their parents." (31)

Back to those judgment values... **What would our portrait look like if God were our number one value?**

Show video <https://www.values.com/inspirational-stories-tv-spots/100-concert>

**GRACE (Gospel Parenting)**

*At some point your children are going to begin to wonder why they have the rules they have, why they have been told to believe certain things, and who in the world put you in charge. "Sadly, many parents have little more to say thank, 'Do it because I told you to do it' or 'Do it or you're going to get punished.' Those explanations get a response from your children only as long as they fear you, but there will come a time when they don't fear you anymore. If all you've given your children is fear of you, then when they leave your home, they will no longer have anything to motivate them to do what is right."*(31)



## Parenting: 14 Gospel principles that can radically change your family.

In Deuteronomy 6:20-23 Israelite parents are told to tell their children the story of God's grace

They are instructed to remember again and again how the good Lord redeemed them from being slaves in Egypt.—It was all by grace because God is such a good God.!

### Talking about God to your children

"When your child questions the rules, don't puff up your chest and tell him he better obey or else; talk to him about a loving Redeemer, who not only created him but shed His blood for him so that he could know and do what is right." (p.31)



"Capture the opportunity around you to point to God. Don't let a day pass without doing it and don't feel that it's weird to talk about God all the time. His is so pictured by His creation that it is positively weird not to be reminded of Him and talk about Him all the time. And remember, the teenager needs this as much as the toddler does." (p.32)

## ACTION ITEMS FOR YOU THIS WEEK

### Getting to the Heart of your Children

**LAST THING** – We need God's grace ourselves

- He helps us in this!

*"No one gives grace better than a parent who humbly admits that he desperately needs it himself." (p 32)*

1. Ask your children what most amazes them about God.  
Do they have an answer?  
Do they struggle to find an answer?  
Does their answer reflect what amazes *you* about God or what they have been taught by others?
2. Share with your children something that amazes you in nature. Ask them for something that amazes them in nature.
3. Share a favorite biblical story with your children.  
Explain why it is a favorite of yours.  
Ask them to share a favorite Bible story and explain why it is a favorite.
4. Share with your children something God did in your life that was lifechanging or amazing.