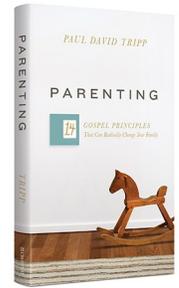


Chapter 10 Character

Sunday, November 5 2017

Principle: Not all the wrong your children do is a direct rebellion to authority; much of the wrong is the result of a lack of character. .

"PARENTING: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family"
by Paul David Tripp



OPENING QUESTION

Who is someone who has modeled to you an exemplary character? Or think of someone you have observed working to improve their character.

What's the problem here?

Story of kids playing Wii while mom is frantically preparing for dinner guests. P.137

What's wrong with the scene?

So what do you do about this situation? *(Always talk to God first! But Why?)*

"When you confess that when it comes to character struggles, You are more like your children than unlike them, then you deal with situations when character problems are revealed with patience, kindness, and grace." (p.139)

A Stunning Connection—Why do we have character problems? (p.140)

Read Romans 1:25,28-32

"The Bible connects character issues to the most significant of all human functions – worship." (p.141)

Worship Creator vs. Crave Creation

"Will the heart of your child be controlled by love for the Creator (worship) or by craving something in the creation (idolatry)? (p.142)

Respect
Compassion
Character
Responsibility
Honesty



Back to the story of the kids and mom.

What was ruling the children's hearts in the story?

(Pleasure, Control, Being Right, Being Accepted, Enjoying Material Possessions, Independence)

Question: When does a desire for a good thing become a bad thing?

"A desire for a good thing really does become a bad thing when it becomes a ruling thing." (p.143)

Parents need to help their children see these things



TEEN SITUATION - Sally asks to sleep over at an abandoned camp

Sally needs more than a parent who will say a firm *no*; Sally needs a parent who will help Sally understand what's in her heart and how it shapes the way she responds to her mom." (p.145)

What poor character qualities does Roman 1:28-32 list that we deal with with our children every day?

CONNECTION BETWEEN CHARACTER AND WORSHIP "Your children don't so much need character management as they need worship realignment. They don't first have a character problem; they have a worship problem that produces a character problem." (p.146)

Chapter 11 False Gods

Principle: You are parenting a worshiper, so its important to remember that what rules your child's heart will control his behavior. .

Every parent needs to ask three questions:

1. Why do my children do the things they do?
2. How does change take place in children's hearts and lives?
3. How can I be a tool of change in the hearts and lives of my children?

WORSHIP

"Worship is not only the shaping force of our children's behavior, but it is the explanation of the choices they make and the actions they take." (p.150)

"Children do what they do because of what they worship." (p.150)

Illustration# 1 = Toys R Us
Johnny wants to be God
So what should mom do?

Illustration # 2 = Teen all about looks
16 year old daughter spends ridiculous amount of time in bathroom every morning.

Actually a worship problem

"Won't solve the problem by limiting the time she spends in the bathroom, putting her on a clothing budget or taking away her fashion magazines. It's about where she is looking in life for satisfaction and contentment, for identity and for belonging. It's about what is her functional God." (p.153)

So what is Worship? (Tripp's definition, p. 154) Inner desire for amazement, fulfillment, meaning and purpose, the drive to look to someone or something for identity and inner peace.

Question for Discussion: What tends to capture your heart and desires?
What do you have a tendency to worship instead of

God?

Tripp lists Bible passages on worship

“These uniquely human inner cravings – for life, for peace, for identity, for hope, and for meaning – that are at the heart of what worship is, were intended to be lead us to our Creator, to seek the help that only He can give and to give our lives n service of Him.

But sin causes all of us to exchange worship and service of the Creator for worship and service of the creation.” (p.156)



The capacity of your children to worship is the most important Biblical insight for parents.

GREAT QUOTE “Your kids were made for God. They weren't just made for a good education, a good job, a good house, a good marriage, and a good citizenship. These things have value, but they are not the reason your children have been given life and breath, and they must not be our ultimate goals as parents.” (p.157)

How? Since your children are worshipers, you must be committed to being an instrument of seeing. If you see wrong in the hearts of your children, but they don't acknowledge that wrong, they will resist your help and they will not commit themselves to change.



When you work to help your children to see and own what is motivating them to want what they want and to do what they do, you are doing the work of the Messiah, Jesus, who sent you.” (p.159)

CONFESSION

Leading your children to confession is about having tender, patient, understand, and insight-giving conversations with your children that are intended to get them to exam-

ine what they haven't acknowledge and to begin to accept responsibility for the thoughts, desires, and choices that cause them to do what they do. (p.160)

It's not “Do this and you'll get this” parenting. It's “you need help and I'm her to help you” parenting. (p.160) “Where is God calling my children to own responsibility for their thoughts, desires, choices, and actions, without excuse or shifting blame, and how can I help them do it?”

So, how will you do this?

“We faithfully hold God's high standard before our children, we lovingly confront their wrong choices and actions, we work to help give insight into their hearts, we are humbly honest about our own heart struggles, we talk to them again and again about the grace to be found in Christ Jesus, and we model His patience and forgiveness.” (p.161)

Chapter 12 Control

Principle: The goal of parenting is not control of behavior, but their heart and life change.

What do children really need?

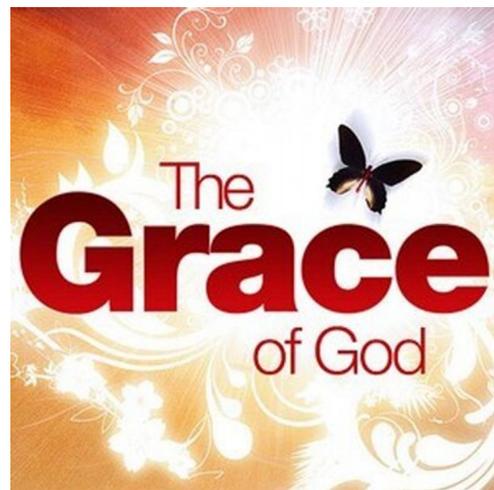
Guidance, Protection, instruction, Wisdom. Authority, Rules, Structure. Preparation, Understanding, Confrontation, Discipline, Warning, Love, Forgiveness, Security

What's missing?

Something has gone wrong inside your kids and they need help with that.

Psalm 51 teaches it to us (read it)

- 1) Your children need to see their sin, So they'll cry out to God for mercy.
- 2) Your children need to understand the nature of sin So they don't minimize its danger
- 3) Your children need to understand that their problem is not with their parents but with God.
- 4) Your children need to understand that sin is a nature problem that produces behavior problems.
- 5) Your children need to understand that since sin is a heart problem, the only solution is a new heart.
- 6) Your children need to be taught to run to the Only Place of Hope: The Forgiving Grace of God



You are called to make use of every opportunity that God will give you to help your children to become aware of the grave danger of the sin that lives inside them. You don't do this with irritation or impatience, but with grace, acknowledging that you are just like them. (p.177)

Getting to the Heart of your Children

Ask you child: "If I could give you understanding in one area of life, what would it be?" If you can give insight to one area, ask if you may share your insight with them.

Practice speaking to your child, especially your teen, with humility instead of anger, with grace instead of judgment, with mercy instead of condemnation.

Tuck away in your heart.

1. What will you remember most from this lesson today?
2. In what way does today's lesson challenge you? Is there something God is putting on your heart to do about it?
3. In what way is God calling you to trust Him more in parenting the child(ren) He's given you? Remember, you're His tool and parenting is His idea!