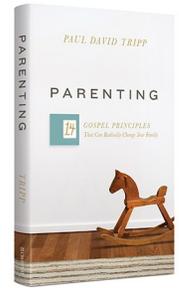


Chapter 13 Rest

Principle: it is only rest in Gods' presence and grace that will make you a joyful and patient parent.

Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017

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



OPENING QUESTION

Why do parents need some "feel good" times in their lives?

What's the problem here?

Tripp believes many parents have forgotten how to rest. (p.179))

Why might parents dread attending another parenting conference? (p.179)
"They thought they'd be told again all the things they're not doing and leave the weekend feeling defeated and guilty." (p.179)

What robs parents of rest?

What might you say is the most important parenting passage in the Bible?

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said unto them, "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold I am with you always, to the end of the age."



Core Mission of Parents

1 make disciples

"Your job is to do everything within your power, as an instrument in the hands of the Redeemer who has employed you, to woo, encourage, call and train your children to willingly and joyfully live as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is more important than how they do in school, or how positively they contribute to the reputation of your family, or how well they set themselves up for a future career, or how well they do in sports and the arts, or how well they are lied by adults and peers." (p.184)

2 teach children to observe everything Jesus has commanded

"...helping your children develop a comprehensive biblical and worldview that is a way of looking at life that is distinctively God-centered and biblically driven." (p.185)

Children will become His disciples only as they are rescued by his grace! (p.185)

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



"Jesus' promises are not so much promises, but reminders of the unshakable identity of everyone of His children." (p.186)

"If you look horizontally for your rest, you will always end up disappointed." (p.186)

With what words of comfort does Jesus begin the commission?

What does it mean to you that Jesus has (and still has!) ALL AUTHORITY in heaven and earth?

"It is impossible to be in any situation, any location, any circumstance, and any relationship at any time that is not at that time being ruled by King Christ." (p.186)

"There is never a moment, in any location, where you are in a situation with one of your children that is not under the wise, careful, and powerful control of the One who sent you into it. Yes, there will be moments when you are out of control and there will be moments that seem out of control, but there is never a parenting moment that exists outside the control of the King who sent you." (187)

THE BEST PROMISE - "I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS!"

Take some time and think about that for a moment - Jesus is with you always!

"This means that every moment you are parenting you are being parented" (p.187)



"So your hope as a parent is not found in your power, your wisdom, your character, your experience, or your success, but in this one thing alone: the presence of your Lord." (p.188)

Practical Results of this promise

- A. You will not be punished for your failure. (p.188)
- B. You are welcomed by grace to new beginnings. (p.189)
- C. You are not left to your limited resources. (p.189)
- D. God blesses you with the right here, right now wisdom of His Word. (p.190)
- E. You do not have to load the burden of your children's welfare on your shoulders every morning. (p.190)
- F. God will never close His ears to your cries for help. (p.191)
- G. Weakness is not a curse; it's a blessing. (p.191)
- H. Success is about faithfulness, not results. (p.192)

FOR DISCUSSION: Which of the truths of God above is most comforting to you as a parent at this time in your life? Why?

Chapter 14 Mercy

Principle: No parent gives mercy better than one who is convinced that he desperately needs it himself.



Write down your definition of mercy:

Tripp's definition of mercy: "Mercy is tenderheartedness and compassion toward someone in need." (Tripp, 195)

Circle examples that show mercy. Cross out examples that DO NOT show mercy. Which example would you like to do more of in your parenting? Less of?

"Mercy is about moving toward your children with love even in those moments when they don't deserve your love." (Tripp, 197)

	Not allowing heart to grow bitter & cold	Give control to children
No standards		
	Wishy-washy	kind discipline
Take child's failures personally		Tender heart
		Ready to forgive
	Avoiding indulging in irritation & anger	
Abandon discipline		Bad things are OK
	patience	compassion
Gentle correction		encourage
	Always say yes	

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Mercy Requires Mercy

"I don't need to be rescued from the sin, weakness, and failures of my children. I have been called to be a parent of their sin, weakness, and failures. Every moment of the foolishness and failure of our children should remind of why the heavenly Father provided children with parents." (Tripp, 198)

Responses of Mercy

"Parents, here's what God has called you to: he has called you to be His first responders in the lives of your children. The fireman who willingly runs into a burning building or the EMT who runs up the stairs to assist a man who has just had a heart attack is on a mission of mercy.... That first responder is not there to lecture, or condemn, but to provide the rescue that is needed but that the person cannot give to himself." (Tripp, 201)

Some Practical Ways to respond in mercy:

1. Look for every opportunity to shower your children with grace.
2. Be careful to help your children see the heart behind the behavior.
3. Be patiently committed to process.
4. Point your kids every day to Jesus.
5. Humbly accept your limits.
6. Remind your heart each morning to rest in the presence and power of your heavenly Father
7. Willingly confess your faults
8. Root all that you require, say and do in the wonderful wisdom of Scripture.
9. Don't treat opportunities like hassles.
10. Be slow to anger and quick to forgive.
11. Pray before, during and after.
12. Do all of these things over and over again!

Getting to the Heart of your Children

1. Ask your child, "How do we know how we are supposed to act?"
2. Think of a consistent issue you will probably need to discipline your children for during this upcoming week. Think through the following:
 - A. Why is it important that this issue be corrected?
 - B. How successful has your discipline been up to this point
 - C. What will be the best way to implement the discipline? How will you show loving discipline?
3. Pray with your children after disciplining them.

Tuck away in your heart.

1. What will you remember most from this lesson today?
2. What will you remember the most from this book?
3. Is there something that God is challenging you to put into practice more in your parenting from our discussions? Ask Him for help and Trust Him to actually help you. He will!