

A person's hands are shown holding a pair of black and white sneakers. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green grass and a white fence. The image has a dark, semi-transparent overlay.

Sunday, September 10, 2017
Intro and Chapter 1: Calling

PARENTING

Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family

Share at tables

1. Your Name and Ages of your children
2. What is *one* thing (good or bad) you learned from your parents about God?



The Book's Introduction – AMBASSADORS!

This book is about:

GOSPEL PARENTING

what P.D. Tripp calls being an **AMBASSADOR** of God in parenting your children.

Quote from bottom page 12

- Not about practical strategies of dealing with children at various ages
- A reorienting book
- a new of thinking & responding to everything on your parental plate
- Give you vision, motivation, renewed strength, & the heart that parents need



**Ownership Parenting
vs.
Ambassadorial Parenting**



From the video...

At tables

- 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?



What gets in the way of God using us as parents?

- “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)

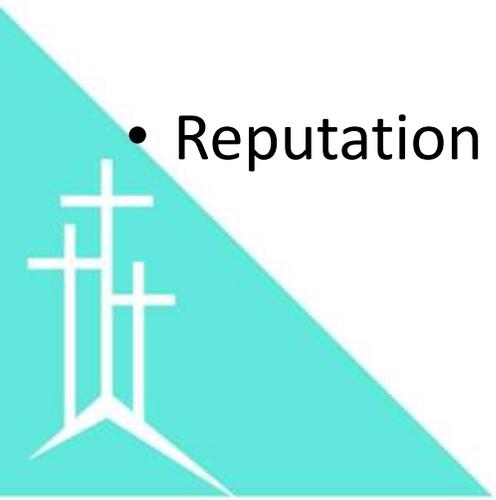


Problems of Parenting p.17-20

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)

Which of these might be most tempting for you to put before your kids or influence your parenting?



DAY OF

Calling

*NOTHING IS MORE
IMPORTANT IN YOUR LIFE
THAN BEING ONE OF GOD'S TOOLS
TO FORM A HUMAN SOUL.*





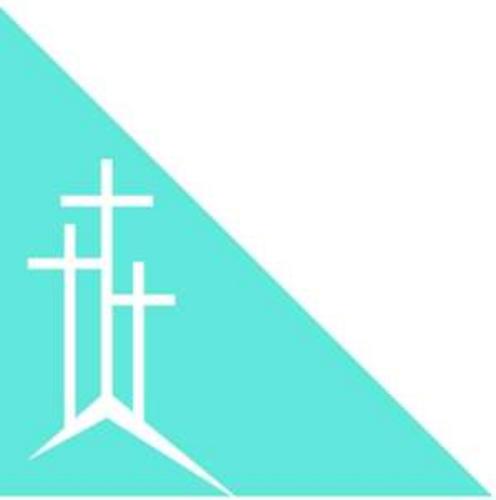
Our calling as parents is to be God's on-hand agents for the forming of a human soul (page 24)

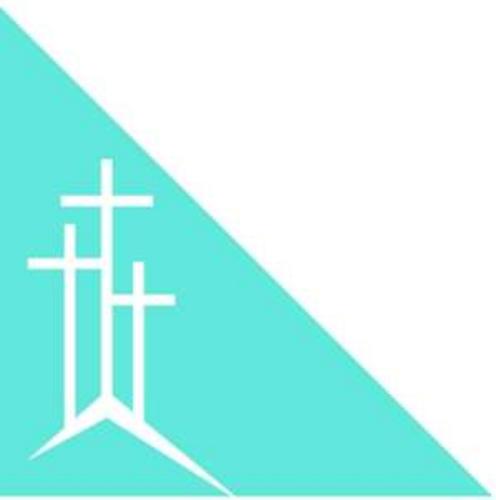


Value Judgments

- *“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 these family photos. 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)

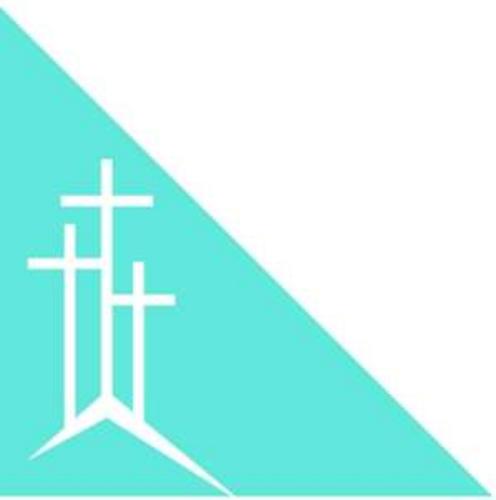
- Possessions
- Success
- Ministry
- Other???



What does God value? **Parents!**

At tables...

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



Great quotes from the book - page 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)
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- **“You could argue that the chief reason God put parents in children’s lives is so that they would know Him.” (30)**
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- “The most important thing that a child could ever learn about is the existence, character, and plan of God.” (30)
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- “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)



Why should your children listen to you?

- “Because I said so!”
- “Because that’s the way it is!”
- “So you don’t get punished, that’s why!”

Or is there a better explanation?

- *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.” (p.31)*



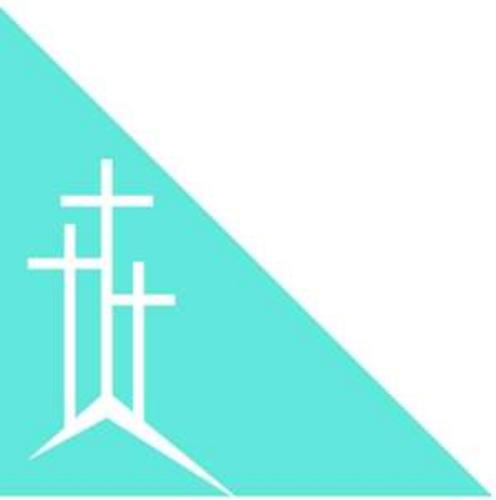
Why should your children listen to you?

- In Deuteronomy 6:20-23 Israelite Parents are told to tell their children the story of Grace
 - They talk about how God redeemed them from being slaves in Egypt.
 - This is actually the preamble statement to the 10 commandments
- **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)



The last thing

- *We need God's grace as much as our children do.*
- *"No one gives grace better than a parent who humbly admits that he desperately needs it himself." (32)*





Getting to the Heart of your Children

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 life-changing or amazing.

