

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

**Sunday, October 1, 2017**

**Chapter 3: Law**

# PARENTING

*Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family*



What's is one rule in your house that stands out in your memory?



**Review last week:** This is a principal book, not a practical book

## Ownership Parenting vs. Ambassadorial Parenting

**Chapter 2 GRACE Principle:** God never calls you to a task without giving you what you need to do it. He never sends you without going with you.

### ILLUSTRATIONS

bowl filled w/ water (Why did H<sub>2</sub>O come out?)

bowl filled w/ cotton balls

bowl filled w/ living water (God has put Himself in us)

rocks & putty = hard hearts & tender hearts, **THE GRACE OF GOD**

### God's PRESENT Grace

**God calls those who *are not able*. Why? So, searching for help, we find the *Helper!***

**God puts Himself in us!**

**God's Grace Works in Us**

rescues you from you, grows you as a parent, tenders your heart



DAY 03

# LAW

*YOUR CHILDREN NEED  
GOD'S LAW, BUT YOU CANNOT  
ASK THE LAW TO DO WHAT  
ONLY GRACE CAN ACCOMPLISH.*



# Identifying the problem

**At tables** - As a group, observe how parents in each situation are relying on the law (rules) to change or shape their child's behavior.

- Situation # 1 Josh (16) rebellion
- Situation # 2 Jessica (3) counting to 3
- Situation # 3 Emma (17) strayed by culture
- Situation # 4 Rob (18) sexual orientation



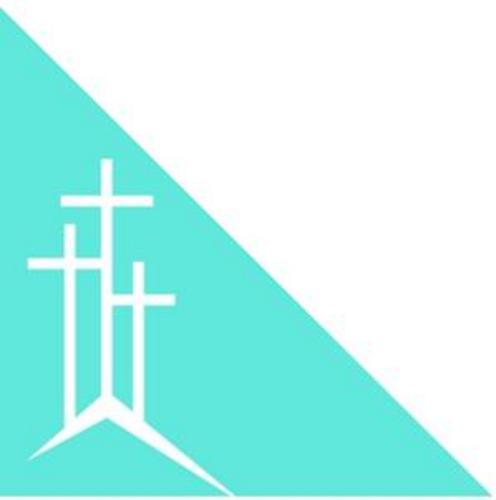
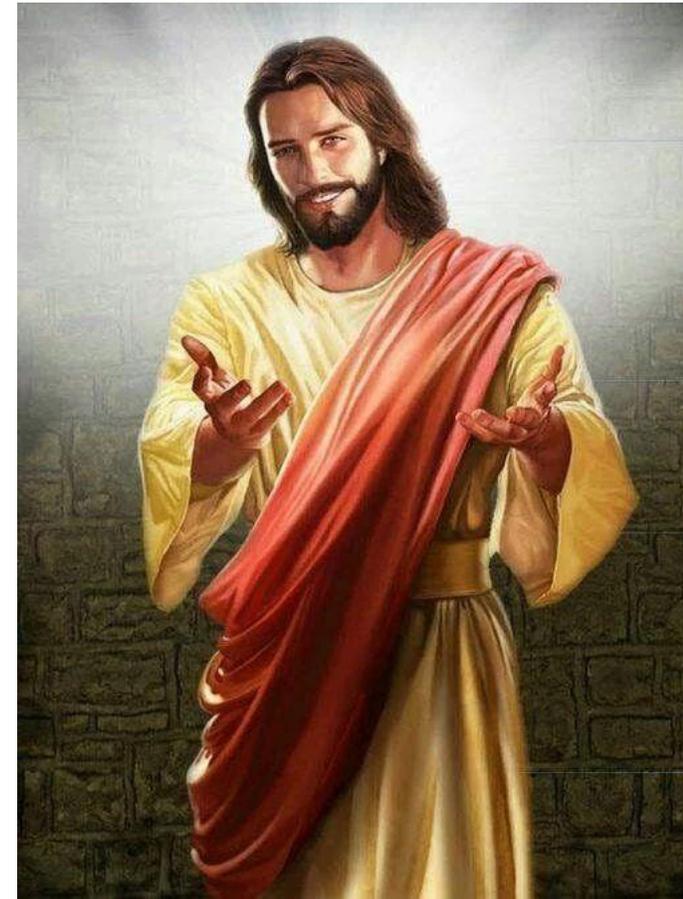


“If I watched the last six weeks of your parenting, how you evaluate your children and seek to work change in them, what would I conclude is the primary too that you’re relying on? (49)

“I am convinced ... well-meaning Christian parents are asking the law to do in the lives of their children what only the powerful grace of God can accomplish.” (49)



**If rules and regulations had the power to change the heart and life of your child, rescuing your child from himself and giving him a heart of submission and faith, Jesus would have never needed to come! (p49)**



# Functions of the Law

1. Curb

2.

Mirror

3. Guide



# The Law can't change the heart.

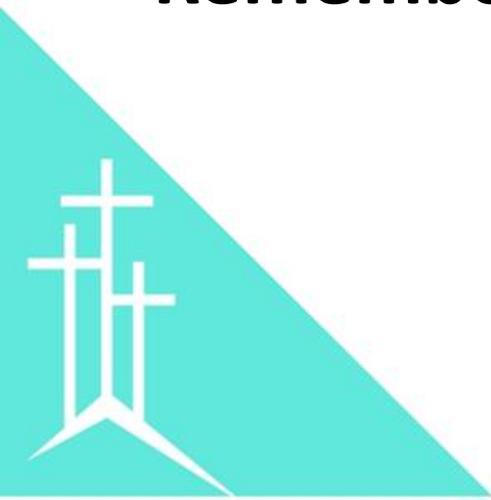




**We often replace God's law with OUR law**  
(rules about daily chores and what we want)

**Worse, we make up our own laws for our children**

**Remember the real problem: it's sin!**



## At tables - What do you think about this statement?

“If you are ever going to function as God’s ambassador, you need to be rescued by powerful grace from your bondage to you. As parents, we need to be rescued from our addiction to the law of our comfort, pleasure, success, and control. It’s not our children sins that is in the way of good parenting, it’s our tendency to make parenting about our little kingdom of wants, needs, and desires, and our tendency to want our children to serve the purposes of our kingdom rather than submit to the purposed of God’s kingdom.” (p.53)



Why does God (and children) not desire  
“able” parents? (p.36)

## **At tables - What do you think about this statement?**

“If you walk down the hallway mad because your children need correction again, you’re mad because at the moment they need what every human being constantly needs: a parent’s care. But if you walk down that hallway confessing your need of the Father’s care, it is more likely that you will embrace the need of your children for the same care, and you’ll be tender as you give it.”

(p.37)



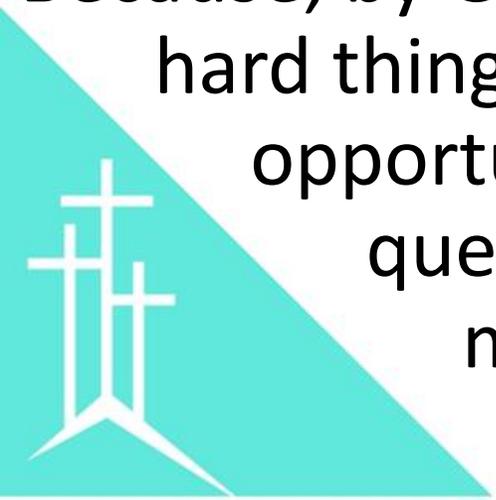
# Story of dad's cinnamon rolls p. 53



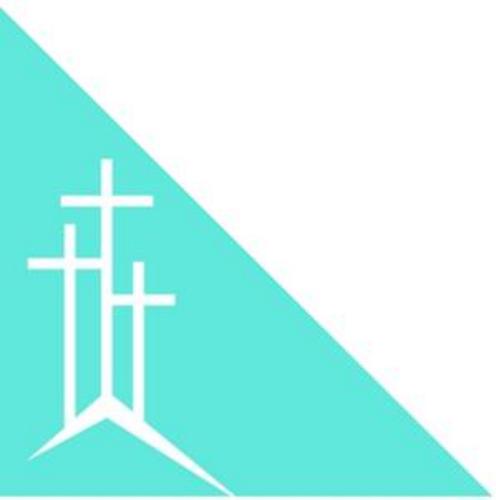
# You Need to Preach the Gospel to Your Children



“There will be no want of opportunities to talk to your children about their inescapable need for God’s grace. There will be no lack of opportunity for telling them the story of how Jesus meets those needs. Because, by God’s plan, every good thing, every beautiful thing, every hard thing, every sad thing, and everything to celebrate gives us an opportunity to point to the God who, in grace, rules it all. The question is: will you see those opportunities in the mundane moments of parenting and capture them again and again and again?” (p.55) **So, how will you do this?**



# Modeling Grace to your children p.56



GOOD NEWS – Our Father never gives up on us!

“You see, it is only as we are willing to confess that we are more like than unlike our children, that we ourselves need parenting every day, that we will be parents in need of a father’s grace who will again and again lead our children to the grace of the Father.” (p.57)



# GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What will look, sound and feel different when we parent the hearts of our children and not just their behavior?
2. Why do threatening, manipulating and using guilt not really work?
3. What needs to first happen for your children to be able to confess their own sin?



# PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. Does your parenting and training focus on the hearts of your children or just their behavior?
2. What is your motivation (what is in your heart) that persuades you to use threats, manipulation or guilt with your children?
3. How well do your children respond to your discipline and when you address their sin? Is there something you could do differently that will foster a listening spirit within your child?

