

Sermon Discussion July 17, 2016

Overview

Family exists to exemplify a culture of grace. Taylor's teaching worked through the following points:

1. Family exists to put the gospel on display
2. Culture of grace helps to put it on display
3. How can we build this culture of grace?

In Ephesians, Paul exhorts families to grace-based treatment of one another as we work to submit, love, and obey as appropriate in various roles. This is not in order to secure our mutual love, but as a result of the unconditional love we already have for each other. This is enabled and sustained by remembering and embracing God's undeserved love for us.

Quotations

D.A. Carson:

"If I have learned anything in 35 or 40 years of teaching, it is that students don't learn everything I teach them. What they learn is what I am excited about, the kinds of things I emphasize again and again and again and again. That had better be the gospel."

Understanding & Application

1. Taylor spoke of the American/Western culture being one of individualism – be true to yourself.
 - a. Can you point to examples in the broader culture where this is evidenced?
 - b. It's not an "out there" problem, but this presses into our lives as individuals and families. How do you experience this temptation in your family life?
2. As you think through the explicit and implicit theologies expressed in your home, are they aligned?
 - a. What practical thing could you do help them align more?
3. Do you believe outward obedience is a result of heart change? Or does the heart change after obedience has occurred? Does this change with the age of a child?
 - a. How does this play out in your spiritual walk? Do you "obey first" and read/pray even when your heart is not fully in it – or do you seek to have your heart engaged and then feel free to pray and study God's word?
4. How can we avoid the temptation to "assume the gospel" as our kids get older?
 - a. What are situations that naturally call for reminding our family of the gospel and how it enables a culture of grace?
5. Taylor challenged us that our top goal as a family is the spiritual growth of one another.
 - b. How does that happen for your family today?
 - c. What is one practical thing you could start doing this week to better fulfill that goal?