

# Parenting as Christ's Ambassadors

## Adopting & Pursuing Christ's Goals

Adult Training Seminar Session Two - Kevin Schoonhoven 1-21-18

Opening Discussion - Although Jesus was a single man, How would you describe Jesus' view children?

**Session One - The Lord Jesus is your all-sufficient shepherd in commissioning you as His ambassador to your children so that you will faithfully fulfill your parental ministry for Christ's glory**

### Review from Session One

#### 1A. Your identity as Christian parent

- Created in God's Image - Genesis 1:26-31, 2:18-25
- Fallen Sinner - Genesis 3:1-7, 16-19
- Redeemed by Grace through Christ - Genesis 3:15, 21
- Commissioned Ambassador of Christ to represent Him to your children - 2 Corinthians 5:14-21  
(cf Matthew 28:18-20 and New Covenant Fulfillment of Malachi 4:5-6)

#### 2A. The identity of your children – Same texts in Genesis

- Created in God's Image "Little People" (cf Psalm 139:13-16)
- A gift from God – Psalm 127
- Fallen Sinners - Psalm 51:5, Proverbs 22:15
- Redeemable – Christ can save, regenerate, and mature

#### 3A. Your resources Christ has provided to you as His Parent-Ambassador? (cf 2 Peter 1:3)

Abundant Reason for parental HOPE! How big is Your God?

- An all sufficient Savior – John 10:10, Romans 8:31-32, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- An all sufficient Helper, Counselor & Guide – John 14:25-27, 16:12-15, Galatians 3:1-3
- An all sufficient Word – 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Galatians 3:24 (cf Matthew 7:24-27)
- A redemptive community – the local church (One another's, Wise Counselors, Undershepherds)
- An ever present avenue to obtain ALL the HELP we need – Psalm 121, Philippians 4:6-7 **PRAY**

Illustration Mark 9:14-24 Father of demon possessed son "Help my Unbelief" Christ alone helped him!

**Session Two – As Christ's commissioned ambassador to my children I'm called to adopt and pursue the goals Christ has established for me and my children**

How have you seen Christians unwittingly influenced in the goals they adopt for their children?

4A. What is the cultural context in which we are raising our children? What lies are evangelistically proclaimed as the right way to raise your kids?

Outside the church? (Don't be deceived, naïve or ignorant of the schemes of the devil and this world)

- Colossians 2:4,8, 1 John 5:19, Romans 12:2 (cf 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
- Ephesians 6:10-13 Reality of Spiritual Warfare
- 1 John 2:15-16 – the world promises happiness it cannot deliver

Inside the church? (Romans 7:14-25 Understand your remaining sin and each member of your family)

- Selfishness
- Laziness & Inattentiveness
- Wrong Thinking that Leads to Errant Counsel (e.g. Experience Based)
  - Versions of "Formula Parenting"
  - Imbalanced Over-Reactionary Movements of Familialism
- Unbelief, Discouragement & Despair
- One Another – sin against each other. Christ's forgiveness and relational forgiveness

Have you ever thought about your goals as a parent? Do you have any? Have you taken the time to write them down and discuss them with your spouse? How are you measuring success in parental labors? What are some of the goals Christians have for their children both on and off target?

5A. Adopting & Pursuing Christ's Goals – Remember you are Christ's Ambassador!

1B. Shepherd Your Children OR Disciple Your Children (Proverbs 27:23)

- Point Them To Christ – 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, 1 Thessalonians 5:14
- Impart The True Gospel – Acts 20:19-21, 26:18-20 (cf Galatians 1:3-9)
- Model Christ to Them – 1 Corinthians 11:1, 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12
  - How do you deal with your own sin in the home?
  - What idols of your own parental heart have you identified?
- Love God First & Foremost – Cultivate a Heart for God (Matthew 22:36-38)
- Love Others – A Genuine Regard for Others Well Being (Matthew 22:39-40, Matthew 7:12)
- Disciple Them to Christlike Maturity
  - Colossians 1:28-29
  - Proverbs 1:7-9, (cf 1 Peter 1:17)
  - Romans 8:29 Lifelong process of conformity to Christ
  - 3 John 4

2B. Instruct Your Children – Impart a Christian Worldview. Defining Issue is always the Truth of God

- Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 20-25 – Formal and Informal Instruction (A lifelong conversation)
- Joshua 1:6-7, 24:14-15
- Proverbs repeated plea “Hear, My Son” (e.g. 1:8, 4:10, 6:20, 7:1)
- 2 Timothy 3:15-17, 4:1-5, Ephesians 4:15

3B. Invest Relationally in Your Children – Climate of Affection, Warmth, Closeness & Encouragement

1 John 3:18, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

4B. Minister to Your Children – Serve as unto The Lord

5B. Condition Their Conscience - Acts 24:16

6B. Maximize the Means of Grace

1C. False caricatures of legalism – 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

2C. Primacy and Blessing of the Local Church – 1 Timothy 3:14-16

\*\*\*Reminder of Promise to Claim – Ephesians 3:20 (cf Luke 11:13)

6A. Your Responsibilities as a parent ambassador of Christ (Ephesians 6:4 - Rest of this ATS Class)

1B. The Role Fathers

2B. Negatively – “Do not provoke your children to anger”

3B. Positively – “But bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord”

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or Why not?

“It is a sad reality that many children leaving Christian homes do not have a heart for God. They may profess to be Christians, and they are surely no philosophical atheists, but they are worldly in the way they approach life. There is little evidence in their day-by-day living of a hunger for God. These children do not consciously deny God, but other things have replaced His functional rulership in their lives. Love of God has been replaced by love of other things. Even though they are not overtly rebellious, at the heart level there is a greater love for the “world” than there is for the “Father” (1 John 2:15). They have worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator (Romans 1:25)” pp 170-171, Paul Tripp “Age of Opportunity”

Similar Counseling Situation Submitted Last Week by a Father of young children

Optional Homework

- Ask your kids, “We attended a parenting class today and are asking God to help us be better parents for His glory. Our teacher asked us to ask you to answer a question for us. Would you help us complete our homework? How would you finish this sentence “What Dad and Mom want most from me is . . . .(you fill in the blank)”
- Develop a Family Mission Statement that puts Christ's goals in your own words as a couple
- Take a look at your Weekly Schedule and see if your goals appear in your time allocation

## **Some Suggested Resources – STUDY YOUR BIBLE**

(These are wise counselors but not perfect counselors. You still have to walk by faith)

Age of Opportunity by Paul Tripp

The single best resource on parenting teenagers

Come Back, Barbara by C John Miller & Barbara Miller Juliani

A story of a pastor's daughter's rebellion and repentance told interactively from both perspectives

Disciplines of a Godly Family by Kent & Barbara Hughes

Family version of his popular book "Disciplines of a Godly Man"

Do Hard Things by Alex & Brett Harris

Books written by two outstanding teenage young men calling their peers to rebel against low standards

Everyday Talks by John Younts

Talking to your kids about Christ through daily events and activities of life

Family Worship by Don Whitney

A short primer and simple guide to leading family worship

"How Not to Foul Up The Training of Your Children" 40 Part Sermon Series by Al Martin

The most thorough and detailed exposition of key passages from an experienced pastor

I Kissed Dating Goodbye by Josh Harris

Excellent treatment of the American teenage subculture of indiscriminate boyfriend/girlfriend relationships

Instruction A Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp

Very helpful application of his first book, Shepherding a Child's Heart, with emphasis on the gospel

Proverbs for Parenting & Schoonhoven's Wisdom from Proverbs

Topical arrangements of Proverbs applied to different training issues to address with your children

Quick Scripture Reference for Counseling Youth by Keith Miller

Simple and brief topical arrangement of scriptures to equip you to counsel your kids

Shaping of a Christian Family by Elizabeth Elliot

An autobiographical account of the author's godly upbringing as the primary influence in her life

Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp

The single best book on parenting focused on imparting a vision to go after their hearts not just behavior

Strengthening Your Marriage by Wayne Mack

A great guide through the relevant scriptures pertaining to marriage and family life

Teach Them Diligently by Lou Priolo

A great work on the sufficiency of scripture and how to use scripture in training our children

Time for The Talk by Steve Zollos

A guide to Father-Son talks on Sex Education & leading your son into true manhood

War of Words by Paul Tripp

The best book to really help you tame the tongue

Withhold Not Correction by Bruce Ray

A strong treatment on parental calling to provide consistent, faithful, loving discipline

Worldliness by C J Mahaney

A great aid to helping hold back the tide of worldly influences that pull at our hearts

Your Child's Profession of Faith by Dennis Gundersen

A very helpful guide to discerning true conversion in your children and helping them to examine themselves