

Foundations of Parenting – Session 2

God's Design for the Family

I. Understanding God's Design for the Family (Genesis 1-3)

1. God is the ultimate _____ over everything
 2. God has designed _____ as a part of His larger eternal plan
 3. _____ is the foundation of the family
 4. Husbands are the _____ of the family
 5. _____ are an expected, blessed addition to the family
 6. Children are to be raised to _____ and start their own family
 7. Sin has _____ and undermined everything God has designed (including every aspect of the family)
 8. The _____ is the ultimate (and only) hope for the world (and for the family)
- Since family is one piece of God's larger eternal plan:
 - "God redeeming a people for His Son, by His Son, to His own Glory" – Tom Pennington
 - And since parenting is one piece of God's larger design for the family
 - How does parenting fit into that larger, eternal plan of God?
 - God's design is that sinful parents:
 - _____ redeemed and transformed in Christ
 - _____ God's redeeming, transformative work in their lives to their families and world
 - Be _____ of God's redeeming and transforming work in the lives of their children

II. Balancing God's Design for the Family: Truths in Tension

1. The Priority of Family and the Broader Plan of God
 - Family/Parenting is one of the most important priorities of our life
 - God is about more than simply families. Family is a means to a greater end in God's design

2. Parenting is about God using me to change my kids vs. Parenting is about God using my kids to change me

- In every interaction with your kids, God desires to change them
- In every interaction with your kids, God desires to change you

3. Parenting Today with an eye to Tomorrow

- Parenting is a long-term commitment that requires long-term (eternal) perspective
- Parenting is the briefest of opportunities and each day must be seized

4. God's Sovereignty and Our Responsibility

- Only God can change your child's heart
- Parents are the primary means God uses to change a child's heart

5. Modeling the Fatherhood of God while Being a Child of God

- We are to be a model for our kids of the loving, authoritative Fatherhood of God
- We are to be a model for our kids of a humble, dependent, submissive child of God

Questions for Reflection

1. Are there any aspects of God's design for the family that were surprising to you? Any that you had lost sight of in your typical thinking about your family? How do these affect your thinking about parenting?
2. Which truth of each of the "truths in tension" do you tend to think more about? What impact does that have on your parenting?