

Parental Responsibilities: Instruction

Biblical Parenting Class - Week #5

"You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:14-16

I. Embrace your Responsibility for Instructing your Children

- Ephesians 6:4
- Deuteronomy 6:4-7
- Psalm 78:5ff

II. Remember your Goal in Instructing your Children

- That they would learn (the Scripture and the Gospel)
- That they would be convinced of what they have learned
- That they would continue in what they have learned

John Piper said, "What we want from the next generation is not just heads full of right facts about the works of God; we want heads full of right facts and hearts that burn with the fire of love for the God of those facts; hearts that will sell everything to follow Jesus into the hardest places of the world."

III. Recognize your Example IS Instructing your Children

"To give children good instruction, and a bad example, is but beckoning to them with the head to show them the way to heaven, while we take them by the hand and lead them in the way to hell."

-Archbishop Tillotson (quoted by J.C. Ryle in *The Duties of Parents*)

- Your life speaks volumes to your children

"To successfully learn spiritual convictions from others and to hold them as your own, it is necessary not only to hear them clearly taught, but to see them consistently lived."

-John MacArthur, *2 Timothy MacArthur NT Commentary*

- 1 Timothy 4:16
- Deuteronomy 6:1-9

"Parents, as you would wish your instructions and admonitions to your family to be successful – enforce them by the power of holy example. It is not enough for you to be generally pious – but you should be wholly pious; not only to be real disciples – but eminent ones; not only sincere Christians; but consistent ones. Your standard of true religion should be very high. To some parents I would give this advice, "Say less about religion to your children – or else manifest more of its influence. Leave off family prayer – or

else leave off family sins.”

– John Angell James, *The Christian Father's Present to His Children*

- Your worship is contagious for your children
 - What you worship (Exodus 20:1-6)
 - How you worship (Psalm 145:4)

“Parents have the responsibility to teach their children by their own example the meaning and value of worship. Therefore, parents should want their children with them in worship so the children can catch the spirit and form of their parents' worship....They should see how Mom and Dad sing praise to God with joy in their faces, and how they listen hungrily to His Word. They should catch the spirit of their parents meeting the living God. Something seems wrong when parents want to take their children in the formative years and put them with other children and other adults to form their attitude and behavior in worship. Parents should be jealous to model for their children the tremendous value they put on reverence in the presence of Almighty God.” –John and Noel Piper, *The Family: Together in God's Presence* (www.desiringgod.org)

- Your marriage preaches the gospel to your children
 - Malachi 2:14-16
 - Ephesians 5:22-33

“The gospel is the good news that the Groom loves his bride. He loved her so much that he humbled himself, descended an infinite distance, became man, and suffered poverty and abuse for thirty-three years. Then, in the greatest display of love in history, he allowed himself to be tortured to death on a cross in his bride's place. The Son of God did all of this to serve his bride, to make peace where enmity reigned. What motivated him? Love that surpasses knowledge! He longed to unite himself in irrevocable love to an unworthy bride.

But the gospel is not just about the Groom's love. It also provokes a response from his bride. When understood from the heart, it motivates her to humble herself, love the Groom with all her heart, respect him, and serve him with joyful abandon. The gospel summons Christ's bride to yield to the servant authority of her crucified King.

Here is Paul's point: Christian marriage preaches this union. It makes it either attractive or ugly. When a husband loves his wife as Christ loves the church, washing her with the Word, forgiving her, serving her, and tenderly leading her, his marriage says “Christ loves his church. You can trust the Groom. He is infinitely loving. Serve him. You won't be disappointed.”

...But when a husband is unfaithful to his wife, verbally belittles her, loves his children more than her, or takes her for granted, his marriage says, “Christ's love is not that great. He loves us only when we perform. You can't trust this Savior. You can't meet his expectations. He doesn't keep his promises. Why serve a fickle despot?”...

Wives also preach. When Mom joyfully submits to her husband “as to the Lord,” recognizing that he is her head as Christ is the Head of the church, and that she is his body as the church is the body of Christ, it makes an attractive statement. When she does this for an unworthy husband, not because she trusts *him*, but because she trusts Christ to care for her, it points her children to Christ. Her behavior says, “Christ is trustworthy. The Son of God is infinitely good. You can trust him...”

But when a wife tells her children to obey Christ, yet doesn't trust him enough to take care of her relationship with an imperfect husband, but seeks to control him, resists his authority, refuses to respect him, and declines to serve him, her actions speak loudly. They say, “The Son of God cannot be trusted. He promises to exalt the humble, but I don't believe he will exalt me. He says he will take care of those

who submit to lawful authority, but I don't really believe that. If I don't take care of myself, who will?" In most cases, her children will internalize what she does, not what she says."

-William P. Farley, *Gospel-Powered Parenting*, p. 111-113

IV. Prioritize Scripture in Instructing your Children

- Because Scripture gives wisdom for salvation
- Because Scripture is profitable for:
 - Teaching
 - Reproof
 - Correction
 - Training in righteousness

Therefore...

- Scripture must be the primary content of our instruction
- Scripture must fill our hearts and minds as parents
 - Read Scripture
 - Study Scripture
 - Memorize Scripture
 - Meditate on Scripture

V. Emphasize the _____ in Instructing your Children

- The _____ of the Gospel

- The _____ for the Gospel

VI. Be _____ in Instructing your Children (Deuteronomy 6:1-9)
**Intentional Parenting, by Tad Thompson*

- Through _____ Instruction
 - Family Worship/Bible Reading/Bible Study
 - *Rediscovering the Lost Treasure of Family Worship, by Jerry Marcellino*
 - *Family Worship, by Donald Whitney*
 - Catechism Questions
 - Scripture Memory
 - Good Music
 - Good Books/Movies

- Through _____ Interaction
 - *Everyday Talk: Talking Freely and Naturally about God with Your Children, John A. Younts*

“Moses understood that God’s truth cannot effectively be taught if it is confined to the home or classroom. How will our children believe that the Bible is about all of life if we only talk about it during the Bible lesson? ...To put it another way, discipleship is most effectively accomplished when the practice is integrated into the rhythm of everyday life. A consistent time of family worship, for example, is a great discipleship practice, but it is no substitute for a lifestyle of discipleship that encompasses the breakfast table, the car, bedtime, errands, and chores. There is not a single moment in life that cannot be used as an opportunity for instruction”
-Tad Thompson, *Intentional Parenting*, p. 59

- Through _____ Discipline
 - Addressing their _____
 - Proverbs 4:23
 - Matthew 15:18-19
 - Appealing to their _____
 - Nathan and David
 - Use of _____ and _____

“When using the Scripture for the purpose of conviction, you should take aim at the conscience of your children. You must try to disturb any complacency and indifference to sin and awaken him to the fact that he [or she] has done, or not done, something that is displeasing to God...one of the most effective ways of awakening the conscience of others to their sin is by asking them questions...”

-Lou Priolo, *Teach them Dilligently*

- Directing toward the _____

“The central focus of childrearing is to bring children to a sober assessment of themselves as sinners... The focal point of your discipline and correction must be your children seeing their utter inability to do the things that God requires unless they know the help and strength of God... Discipline leads to the cross of Christ where sinful people are forgiven.”

-Tedd Tripp, *Shepherding a Child's Heart*

Questions for Reflection

1. What is your life teaching your kids? What does it tell them is important? What does it teach them about God, His Word, etc.?
2. What is your marriage teaching your kids about the gospel?
3. How are you/will you develop your knowledge of Scripture so that you can better impart that truth to your children? Are there some specific verses you should memorize so you can more easily regularly share them with your children?
4. What is/will be your plan for "formal instruction" and "family worship"? When/how will you implement this plan if you are not currently doing it? How will you seek to faithfully maintain this practice in your family?
5. What opportunities for informal interaction are you failing to make the most of? Why is this? What distracts you? How will you seek to grow in this way?