



Gospel-Centered Living

*Raising Children in Truth and Unity
(Titus 3:8–11)*





Introduction

- All parents are discipling their children—intentionally or not
- The world is actively shaping our children
- Parents are called to be the primary spiritual influence
- The Main Idea
 - The Gospel that saves us must shape our lives
 - What we believe determines how we live
 - Children learn what we truly value by watching us

1) Believe the Gospel because it is a trustworthy Statement (Titus 3:8a)

- Everything in your life is anchored in your belief
 - The Gospel is an unchanging truth
 - Parents must be grounded in the Gospel personally
 - You cannot pass on what you do not possess
 - The Gospel should be trustworthy to you
 - Move Beyond behavioral Modification
 - Use Discipline moments to point your child to Christ
 - Teach: Grace, Repentance and forgiveness
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2) Model Good Deeds Consistently in your Life (Titus 3:8b)

- Good works are the fruit of salvation—not the root
 - Faith is evident through your good deeds – (Matt 25)
 - Children learn more from imitation than instruction
 - What are you teaching your children?
 - How you handle Stress and conflict
 - How you treat your spouse and others
 - How you worship God and value his word?
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3) What to Avoid? (Titus 3:9)

- There are four things that Paul points out here that we are to avoid:
 - Foolish Controversies
 - Genealogies
 - Strife



Avoid Strife - Proverbs

- A hot-tempered person stirs up strife, while someone slow to anger quiets contention ([Prov 15:18](#))
- Strife begins like water breaking through a dam—the wise stop it before it escalates ([Prov 17:14](#))
- Avoiding strife brings honor, while fools constantly quarrel ([Prov 20:3](#))
- Hatred generates strife, but love overlooks wrongs ([Prov 10:12](#))
- Dishonest people spread strife, and gossips damage friendships ([Prov 16:28](#))
- Greed stirs up strife, while trust in the Lord brings enrichment ([Prov 28:25](#))
- Wrathful people generate strife and transgression ([Prov 29:22](#))
- Arrogance produces nothing but strife; wisdom comes through accepting counsel ([Prov 13:10](#))
- Pressing anger produces strife, just as pressing milk produces curds ([Prov 30:33](#))
- A quarrelsome person kindles strife like charcoal ignites fire ([Prov 26:20–21](#))
- Removing a scoffer eliminates strife, quarreling, and abuse ([Prov 22:10](#))
- A simple meal eaten peacefully surpasses a lavish feast marred by strife ([Prov 17:1](#))

Avoid Strife – New Testament

- Strife appears among the works of the flesh, alongside enmity, jealousy, anger, rivalries, and divisions ([Gal 5:19–20](#))
- Bitter jealousy and selfish ambition produce disorder and every vile practice ([James 3:14–16](#))
- The presence of jealousy and strife indicates fleshly, human behavior rather than spiritual maturity ([1 Cor 3:3](#))
- Believers should avoid quarreling and jealousy ([Rom 13:13](#))
- Foolish controversies breed quarrels; the Lord's servant should be kind and patient rather than quarrelsome ([2 Tim 2:23–24](#))

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 - Foolish Controversies
 - Genealogies
 - Strife
 - Disputes about the law



His Likeness

A Handbook for Putting Off Sin and Putting On Righteousness

4) Address Sin and Division Biblically (Titus 3:10-11)

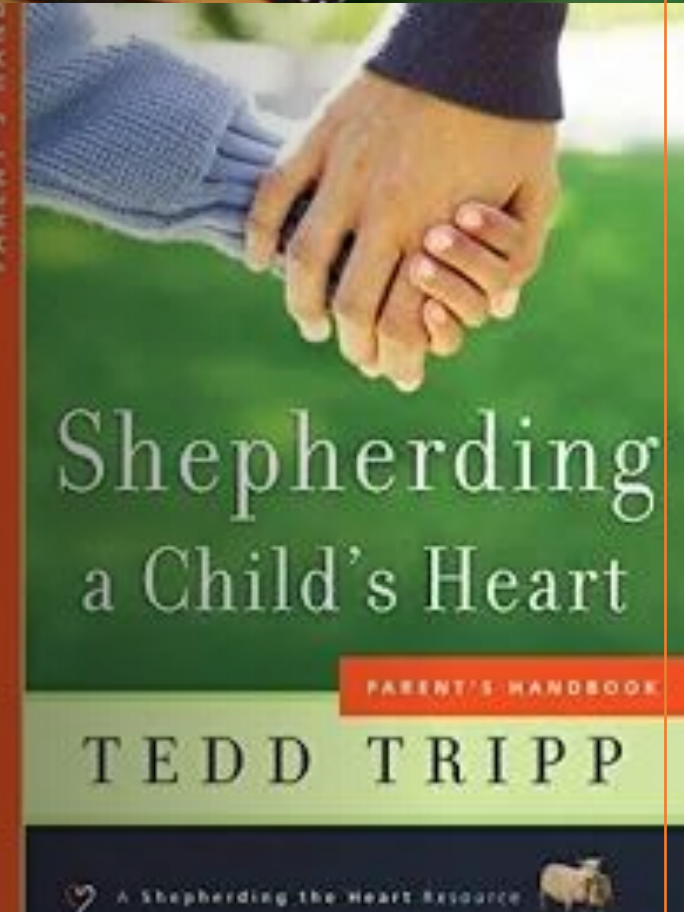
- Discipline is an act of love
- Address the heart, not just behavior
- Teach repentance, reconciliation, and unity
- Parental Application
 - Model repentance and forgiveness
 - Read and pray God's Word as a family
 - Be consistent and Christ-centered in correction



Wise
Words
for Mothers

*"She speaks with wisdom
and faithful instruction.
Her words are like silver,
and her tongue is like gold."
Proverbs 31:26*

by Ginger H



APPLICATION

- Believe the Gospel deeply – live it out in your life, but also speak it. Paul said this is a trustworthy statement. How often are you making this statement with your mouth?
- Live it visibly – by doing good deeds. Exemplify the good deeds in your life so your children can follow you as you follow Christ.
- Avoid foolish talk and strife in your life at work, home and in the church. These are unprofitable
- Reject seeking your own opinion over Gods word. Submit yourself to the truth and study it faithfully
- Teach it faithfully to your children. – Deut 6:7



Final Exhortation

- Believe the Gospel deeply – live it out in your life, but also speak it. Paul said this is a trustworthy statement. How often are you making this statement with your mouth?
- Live it visibly – by doing good deeds. Teach and train the children to love and good deeds. Exemplify the good deeds in your life so your children can follow you as you follow Christ.
- Avoid foolish talk and strife in your life at work, home and in the church. These are unprofitable
- Reject seeking your own opinion over Gods word. Submit yourself to the truth and study it faithfully
- Teach it faithfully to your children. – Deut 6:7 ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as ^[b]frontals ^[c]on your forehead. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

QUESTION APPLICATIONS

1. Do your children see a parent who:
 - Lives out the gospel in your own life?
 - loves Christ?
 - repents of sin?
 - trusts in grace?
 - Or do they see someone who is simply trying to manage behavior?
 2. What do my good works teach my kids and spouse about what I believe?
 - If my children imitate me, will they look more like Christ?
 3. Is my life and home filled with strife, foolish controversies, and disputes? How can I avoid these in the future?
 - What influences are shaping my child more than I am?
 - Am I actively guarding my home—or passively allowing anything in?
 - Am I working diligently in my relationship with my spouse/kids and co-workers and church to remove strife?
 4. Am I teaching unity at Home, or am I allowing division at home and in the church?
 - Is your home a training ground for forgiveness, reconciliation and peace?
 - What steps could I take this week to make sure it is a good training ground?
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