

PARENTING IS DIFFICULT. GODLY PARENTING CAN SEEM IMPOSSIBLE.

I. Does God address how to parent your children?

- A. The Bible is not formatted like your favorite blog post
- B. The Bible offers a narrative case study approach
- C. There are some direct & clear instructions
- D. God is the example of biblical parenting
- E. Parenting is an exercise in leadership

II. The tension between *Ideal Parenting* and *Realistic Parenting*:

- A. Composed vs Chaotic
- B. Calm vs Urgent
- C. Expectations vs Reality
- D. Certainty vs Uncertainty

III. Our objections may be valid, but they don't excuse us.

- A. Nobody taught me how to parent / This is all I know
- B. I came from a bad home / I'm not as bad as my parents
- C. I was raised this way and I turned out fine
- D. We're just too busy
- E. I work hard and I am too tired
- F. My kids are already too old / It's too late for us

IV. Your parenting style will determine your effectiveness:

- A. Authoritarian: uncaring, obedience without objection
- B. Uninvolved: detached, children raise themselves
- C. Permissive: highly involved, low demands or control
- D. Authoritative: nurturing, high expectations & standards

V. Five must do's of Christian parenting

- A. Provide: Parents provide for their children, not vice versa
 - 1. Children shouldn't be responsible for the consequences of a parent's irresponsibility

- B. Teach: Impress the things of God on your children
 - 1. Make faith a priority in your home and the church building
 - 2. The parents/family reputation cannot be the reason for Christian behavior
- C. Discipline: Implement healthy discipline
 - 1. Mistakes, Accidents, Negligence, and Aggression all require different responses
- D. Regulate: Create an environment of emotional stability
 - 1. Do not provoke your children to anger
 - i. Abate your anger
 - ii. Assuage their anger
 - iii. Adjust the physical environment
 - iv. Attune to their emotions
 - v. Apologize when you are wrong
- E. Invest: Be intentional
 - 1. Parent *on* purpose. Parent *with* purpose
 - i. What do you want them to become?
 - ii. What do you want them to accomplish?
 - iii. How do you want your kids to live?

VI. How to ensure you are able to parent successfully:

- A. Begin with the end in mind / Start with why
- B. Build in margins
- C. Recruit allies
- D. Create and close the feedback loop (4H Method)
 - 1. Highlights | Headaches | Heartaches | Hear Me Outs

God *delights* in his children and He *blesses* them - Zephaniah 3:17

Delight in your children and grandchildren and bless them,
and your children will become a blessing to you!