

Parenting - Gospel Growth

Session #2 - There is Sin in a Child's Heart (and yours too)

What makes an ideal family?

If we aren't careful, our picture of an ideal family is a family where no-one sins, and as a result no-one needs a Savior.

But, everyone's greatest problem (and that includes children) is their sin, and as a result, everyone's greatest need is a Savior. (Consider the heart: Pr. 4:23, 22:15, Matt 18:18-19, Ps 51:5)

If a child's greatest problem is sin, and their greatest need is a Savior...

An ideal family of is one where the language and practices of the home reflect the language and practices of the gospel.

Christian parents are commissioned as representatives of the message, character, methods of the loving and caring Heavenly Father—entrusted with “the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” 2 Cor. 5:19-20

“Envision a family where there are imperfect people, many trials, and unwavering love. Imagine a home where brokenness and hope, temptations and forgiveness coexist. Where failures meet mercies that are new every morning. Where all members are in equal need and receive an equal measure of grace. Be encouraged. This is what we have all been given. Regardless of where you find yourself right now, take heart. Change can happen.” - Julie Lowe, Child Proof: Parenting by Faith, Not Formula

1. **More _____ than _____.**

“All this is from God who through Christ reconciled us to himself...in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them...” 2 Cor. 5:18-19

Humility > Compassion > Hope

2. More about _____ than _____.

“God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” 2 Cor. 5:20

“If your eyes ever see or your ears ever hear the sin, weakness, and failure of your children, it is never an accident, never a hassle, never an interruption, its always grace. God loves those children and as an act of His love, he has placed them in a family of faith. And He will reveal the need of those children to you so that you can be a tool of his rescue and his restoration.” - Paul Tripp, “Mirror of Sin and Means of Grace”

3. More _____ our children against their _____ than _____ our children because of their sin.

“not counting their trespasses against them...” - 2 Cor. 5:19

“He sides with you against your sin, not against you because of your sin. He hates sin. But he loves you. We understand this, says Goodwin, when we consider the hatred a father has against a terrible disease afflicting his child—the father hates the disease while loving the child. Indeed, at some level the presence of the disease draws out his heart to his child all the more.” - Dane Ortlund paraphrasing Puritan preacher Thomas Goodwin

The gospel frees us from personalizing what isn't personal.

4. More slow _____ than _____ solutions.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” - 2 Cor. 5:17

Children are not biblically parented by an order barked, a punishment dispensed, and a quick exit. We do not ask the law to do what only grace can accomplish. We regularly, consistently, patiently engage them with the language and practices of the gospel.

Ask these questions (Paul Tripp) to encourage slow transformation over quick solutions:

1. What was going on?
2. What were you thinking and feeling?
3. What did you do in response?
4. Why did you do it/what were you seeking to accomplish?
5. What was the result?