

# God's Design for Parents and Kids



Why is this so hard sometimes?

## What Qualifies a Camp Director to talk about Parenting?



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## The Foundation for Biblical Parenting: Proverbs 24:3-4

“By **wisdom** a house is built, and through **understanding** it is established; through **knowledge** its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures”

## God's Design for Parents and Kids

### Why is this so hard sometimes?

### I. Grasping the Impact of Sin's Curse on our Kids.

“just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned”  
Romans 5:12 (NIV)

## Principle #1

Children are the by-produce of two totally depraved people.

“Children NEED strong parental guidance. In fact, the more they are left to themselves, the less they will become what they ought to be. That is because of their natural depravity. Children are born with a bent toward sin...this is one of the most formidable obstacles to the child's obedience. It is also the greatest issue parents need to deal with. In other words, parents, you cannot raise your children to be what they ought to be unless you help them realize that their most fundamental needs are spiritual- unless you nurture them accordingly.”

John MacArthur "The Fulfilled Family"

## Principle #2

### Your child's greatest need is regeneration.

"Children have a heart problem. They are constitutionally sinful. Like their parents, and like the rest of the Adamic race, they are fallen. What they need most are regenerate hearts. This is the most fundamental issue in parenting. It's not ultimately about behavior; it's about the child's heart. Behavior simply reflects what is in the heart (Mark 7:21-23). Parents have no power to renew a child's heart. Only God can do that. But parents need to help their children understand that their hearts are desperately in need of regeneration, their real problem is sin, and all their greatest needs are spiritual. Parents need to direct their children to Christ."

John MacArthur "The Fulfilled Family"



### Check out Ephesians 2:3

"All of us also lived among them (disobedient) at one time, **gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature** and following its desires and thoughts.

## Principle #3

### Parenting is a privilege; don't buy into the lie.

"For years parents have bought into a lie that the greatest influences in their children's lives are peers, media, and others outside the home. It's just not true. There seems to be professionals everywhere; professional teachers, professional nannies, professional counselors, and (even) professional church staff. With so many plates spinning and parents' weakened confidence that we are even qualified for parenting, we do what the culture applauds: we leave much of the parenting to professionals. So what is left for parents to do? Handle their child's basic needs and hope that everyone else is doing their job? How misguided. Research is showing us that this makes as much sense as rearranging the deck furniture on the Titanic. Children are listening! Parents still have the greatest influence on their children."

Steve Wright "A Parent Privilege"

## Principle #4

Children need Parents who are Christ-centered, Gospel-focused and Biblically sound.



## God's Design for Parents and Kids

### Why is this so hard sometimes?

## II. Grasping three keys for Biblical Parenting.

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead bring them up in the training (nurture) and instruction (admonition) of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4(NIV)

## II. Grasping Three Keys for Biblical Parenting

- A. "don't exasperate your children"
- "provoke to wrath"
  - don't unnecessarily, deliberately or foolishly cause them to be frustrated or angry because of your parenting style
  - doesn't mean children are excused every time they get angry
  - it is the inconsistent things you do that discourage them Col. 3:21

## II. Grasping Three Keys for Biblical Parenting

### B. “bring them up in the training of the Lord”

- “paideia” child training
- discipline and discipleship (to train in advance for the child’s sake)
- to train by action: to educate (+ -)
- nurture (tenderness)
- nourish “bring them up” Eph. 5:29 “feed”

## II. Grasping Three Keys for Biblical Parenting

### C. “bring them up in the admonition of the Lord”

- “nouthesia” admonition
- synonyms working together
- to train by teaching with words: (+ -)
- nurture requires admonition
- discipline by putting into the mind
- become a master at positive discipline

## God’s Design for Parents and Kids Why is this so hard sometimes?

### III. Grasping the Significance of Biblical Examples.

*“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”  
Romans 15:4*

## Four Types of Parental Authority



## Principle #5

The Basic Assumption of All Biblical Parenting is to bring your Children under the Authority of God and into a right relationship with Jesus Christ.

## NEGLECTFUL

THE NEGLECTFUL PARENT SAYS....  
“DO WHAT YOU WANT, I DON’T CARE”



## NEGLECTFUL MODEL

- ✓ LOW IN LOVE
- ✓ LOW IN CONTROL

Proverbs 29:15

*"a child left to himself disgraces his mother"*



## NEGLECTFUL DESCRIPTION

- ✓ KEY: SELFISH
- ✓ Flees Responsibility
- ✓ Slothful
- ✓ Wrong Priorities



## NEGLECTFUL Biblical Illustration

LOT Genesis 19

- ✓ Why is he in a cave?
  - ✓ Neglected God's commands for His family
  - ✓ Disagreed with God
  - ✓ Compromised Truth
  - ✓ Didn't Believe Message
- Result:

1. 2 daughters get pregnant
2. 2 Nations who hate God



## NEGLECTFUL STANDARD

- ✓ COMPROMISING
- ✓ ABSENT
- ✓ LACKS CONVICTION
- ✓ LACKS PRIORITIES
- ✓ LACKS PURPOSE



## NEGLECTFUL COMMENTS

- ✓ produces insecure children
- ✓ failure without planning to fail
- ✓ produces God neglectors



## PERMISSIVE

THE PERMISSIVE PARENT SAYS....  
"I LOVE YOU TOO MUCH TO EVER RESTRICT YOUR DESIRES"



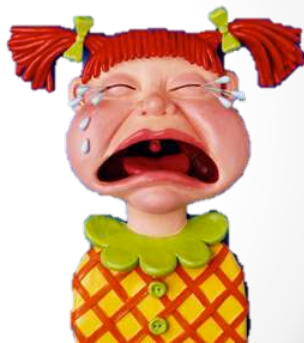
## PERMISSIVE MODEL

✓ (appearance)  
HIGH IN LOVE

✓ LOW IN  
CONTROL

Proverbs 29:25

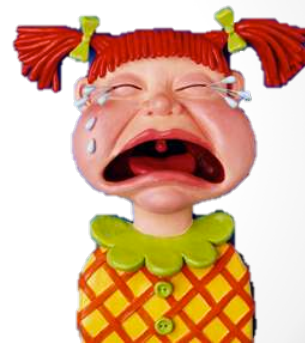
“the fear of man will  
prove to be a snare”



## PERMISSIVE DESCRIPTION

KEY: COWARDICE

- ✓ Fears Responsibility
- ✓ fails to enforce
- ✓ avoids restrictions
- ✓ afraid won't be liked
- ✓ permits wrong action  
by justifying that it's  
not that bad



## PERMISSIVE Biblical Illustration

ELI | SAMUEL 2:29ff

- ✓ honored sons over God
- ✓ insincere warnings
- ✓ sons didn't listen
- ✓ didn't restrain them

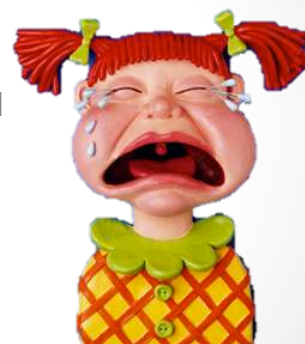
Result:

1. Sons died as promised
2. “Ichabod” on Nation
3. Ark Captured



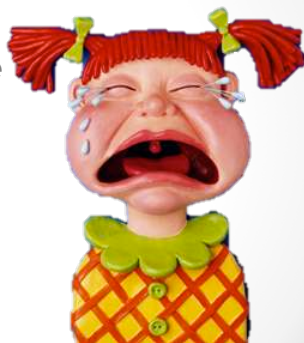
## PERMISSIVE STANDARD

- ✓ CONVENIENCE
- ✓ BASED ON OUR OWN  
PERMISSIVE  
BEHAVIOR
- ✓ LACK OF GOOD  
HABITS AND  
CONVICTIONS



## PERMISSIVE COMMENTS

- ✓ Child knows how to  
“play” or manipulate  
to get what he/she  
wants
- ✓ Child runs the house
- ✓ Produces kids who  
don't take God  
seriously



## AUTHORITARIAN

THE  
AUTHORITARIAN  
PARENT SAYS....  
“Do as I say, not  
as I do”



# AUTHORITARIAN MODEL

- ✓ LOW IN LOVE
- ✓ HIGH IN CONTROL

Proverbs 28:16  
*"a tyrannical ruler lacks judgment"*



# AUTHORITARIAN DESCRIPTION

## KEY: DICTATORIAL

- ✓ unrealistic demands
- ✓ driven by power
- ✓ inconsistent relationship with Christ
- ✓ forces; unfairness
- ✓ abuses authority and blames others
- ✓ always on the attack



# AUTHORITARIAN Biblical Illustration

SAUL I Sam. 14:24

- ✓ unrealistic demands
- ✓ Exclusion of God's way!
- ✓ threats can't be kept

Result:

1. Children don't follow lead



# AUTHORITARIAN STANDARD

- ✓ UNREALISTIC
- ✓ OVERBEARING
- ✓ IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE DEMANDS



# AUTHORITARIAN COMMENTS

- ✓ attacks people, family and followers
- ✓ unreasonable dealings cause children to love the opposite
- ✓ value system is rejected



# AUTHORITATIVE

THE AUTHORITATIVE PARENT SAYS....  
"Do as I do"



# AUTHORITATIVE MODEL

- ✓ HIGH IN LOVE
- ✓ HIGH IN CONTROL

Proverbs 29:2b

*“when the righteous thrive, the people rejoice”*



# AUTHORITATIVE DESCRIPTION

## KEY: CHRIST-LIKE

- ✓ teaches by consistent demonstration
- ✓ strong faith in God and growing obedience
- ✓ decisions based on God's standards
- ✓ faithful effort
- ✓ understands kids are a gift from God and accepts responsibility for the gift



# AUTHORITATIVE Biblical Illustration

## ABRAHAM GEN. 22

- ✓ Story of Isaac and the Altar
- ✓ “fully persuaded that God had the power to do what He promised”
- ✓ feared God

Result: ISAAC GOT ON THE ALTAR!

QUESTION: What if Abraham was.....?



# AUTHORITATIVE STANDARD

- ✓ CONSISTENCY
- ✓ BASED ON KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WORD
- ✓ DECISIONS IN ADVANCE
- ✓ SEEKS RIGHTEOUSNESS



# AUTHORITATIVE COMMENTS

- ✓ produces children who are secure
- ✓ children put confidence in parents and God
- ✓ children can believe parents and see the reality of their faith in Christ
- ✓ provides a breeding ground for spiritual growth



## God's Design for Parents and Kids

### Why is this so hard sometimes?

**Conclusion:**  
**Some helpful Advice**

*“A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.”*

*Proverbs 29:23*

## Some Helpful Advice

1. Evaluate your parental style and agree on your methodology with "yes means yes" and "no means no"
2. Openly confess failures to God and Children but recognize Biblical hope in Christ
3. Give them to the Lord
4. Use the principle of submission to meet their needs
5. Be an educator; explain what you expect; use their "bent" from Proverbs 3:5-6
6. Consistently enforce guidelines through words and actions



Because of  
Christ and the  
Good News...

**YOU  
CAN DO  
THIS!**



**Thanks!**