

The Heart of Parenting

Introduction

- **The Gospel**

- **But God**

- **Encouragement from the Gospel – Dwelling on and applying Gospel truths**
 - Ephesians 1- Every _____ blessing in Christ (vv. 3-14)

 - Ephesians 2 – From dead in sin to alive _____ with Christ (vv. 2-10)

 - Ephesians 3 – The _____ of the gospel, God using Paul, Paul praying for us.

 - Ephesians 4 – v. 1 – Walk in a manner _____ of the calling...

 - Ephesians 4 – v. 17 – _____ no longer as the Gentiles walk...

 - Ephesians 5 – v. 1-2 – Walk in _____ as Christ has loved you (see also 4:32)

 - Ephesians 5 – v. 15 – Be _____ how you walk...

 - Ephesians 6 – Children, fathers, other relationships, “be _____ in the Lord...”

Therefore, when we endeavor to honor God in our marriages and in our parenting, we begin with the view of what God has done for us through Jesus.

- **An Example of The Beauty of the Gospel – Salvation and Help for the Weary and Burdened**
 - Consider Jesus’ words to the crowds in Matt 11. “Come unto me all who are weary and heavy-laden...”
 - Group 1 (the wise and _____) needs no help and has no need for grace or for a Savior.
 - Group 2, the _____, or infants, truly know their need and respond in faith, trust, and dependence.
 - The weary and burdened find _____ rest from the burden of sin and from the resulting way of life produced by disobedience before a good God.
 - Because God has taken care of our _____ need (new life in Christ), we can know that we have through Him sufficient grace and strength for our task as parents.
 - Living by faith is different and brings _____.
 - We DO _____ out of our theology.

The Heart

*Prov. 4:23 – guard, keep, watch over – your heart – for everything you are and do flows from it.
And our greatest calling or duty is, Matt 22:37 – to love the Lord our God with all our heart.*

- The heart is the seat of what we want, desire, think, decide, love, believe, and worship.
 - _____ – thoughts and beliefs
 - _____ – desires and motives
 - _____ – will, choices leading to actions
 - _____ – often beginning in our inner man

- In the home, our focus must be on the _____ and not on perfect behavior or outward righteousness or keeping rules.

- Jesus explains the danger of that method. Let's look at Mark 7 (14-23)
 - Here we see Jesus interacting with the religious leaders because they are more concerned that people _____ religious traditions than whether they understand the true reason man is “defiled”
 - The Pharisees emphasized _____ to deal with man's sin
 - Jesus said they were honoring Him with their lips, but their _____ are far from Him.
 - Jesus said the religious _____ taught man's rules as doctrines able to make man righteous.
 - In verses 20-23 Jesus explains that man's problem is in the heart (the _____)

- The wonder of the gospel applied to my life:
 - First in salvation – being born again by the work of God (Jn 3)
 - Second, in ongoing, daily life. In a daily walk of faith, God does his work of sanctification – changing me more and more into the image of Christ (2 Cor 3:18).
 - If I battle with fear about the children, I need to remember God's power to save and I need to trust and depend on Him rather than attempting to _____ my children's lives.

- Dwelling on the work of God through _____ to love me and that His work of grace in me is undeserved will help me rightly respond to children when sin and conflict are involved.

- **Based on the “Target” of the Heart – What is Guiding Us in Our Homes?**

- Let’s be sure our standards and communication do not emphasize rules, behavior, outward appearance, or standards measured by man _____.
- Let’s be sure our concern and _____ are oriented on the heart – our own hearts and the hearts of our children.
 - Is it important to have standards and to teach right behavior?
 - Does a home need to have various rules or family standards?
 - But what guides how we design and employ standards and rules in the home?
- Let’s be sure we _____ a life of “guarding the heart” (Prov. 4:23)
 - Shaping right thinking, _____ on God’s Word.
 - _____ to desires that honor and glorify God. Parents leading by example.
 - Guiding in _____ - _____ that is based on faith and that glorifies God, not man.
 - Empowering the children to _____ to guard their hearts by helping them to learn and understand gospel truths.
- Pray for and have the confidence to _____ and _____ guide conversations (both instructing and correcting) that are shaped by the Gospel and directed to the heart.

- **The Right Application of Standards and Rules in the Home**

- We know that we do not grow in godliness by a lack of _____ - or by standing still (1 Tim 4:7 = discipline yourself for godliness).
- We also know that good _____ help us to train or guide our hearts.
- But Jesus is also concerned that we not create an _____ where people honor God with their lips and their hearts are far from Him. We will do this when we seek to please _____ above God, or when we desire to exercise _____ over the children.
 - We need to build our relationship, conversation, and interaction with each other and with the children on these gospel and heart-oriented principles.
 - How does God’s love and grace _____ our relationships?

- Because Christ died for me while I was a sinner, how does that guide my _____ and _____ of the children?
 - What should _____ and reconciliation look like in the home?
- We want to _____ that these truths mean so much to us (Dad & Mom) that we:
 - Make _____ based on them
 - _____ the way we live because of them
 - Alter our own thoughts and words to _____ God
 - _____ to someone's sin rightly because of them
 - Titus 3:4-7 teaches us that God's love in salvation is not _____ and is not based on me or my performance. I cannot _____ God's love.
 - Therefore, God's love is my pattern and example for love in the home
 - I must live _____ among my family to rightly demonstrate the grace of God
 - Mom & Dad can _____ the standards and the rules of the home and they can work together as they create the environment in their home and raise their children.
 - _____ God to help you design family priorities and patterns which you discern from the gospel.
 - Be confident to _____ God's work through His Word as you seek to honor Him with these priorities and patterns. *Don't feel like you have to adopt "the Smith's schedule," "the Brown's method of discipline," or "the Jones' diet."*
 - Take note of the way God _____ His people & His church
 - God asks His people to "_____ " both how He provided for them and how He acts on their behalf (e.g. Isa 64:4, I Cor 2:10).
 - Through the Epistles, He teaches truth/doctrine/indicatives and after that He says, "_____ "
 - Rom 12:1-2 – _____ yourself as a living sacrifice, stop being conformed to the world, renew your mind by God's truth, be transformed

- Gal 5:1 – _____ standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.
- Eph. 4:1-3 – _____ in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.
- Truth and doctrine **MUST** be first and they **MUST** guide us in the home and our role as parents.

- The Heart Summary and Questions