

## Discipleship of Our Children

- **Discipleship and The Gospel** - By the idea of discipleship, we imply there is always the environment of the gospel of grace in the home – it is imperative that we evangelize our children.
  - See the \_\_\_\_\_ in the routine activities of life as well as in the difficulties.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ that God would give you words fitting for the time and situation
  - \_\_\_\_\_ on the gospel truths so that you can call them to mind and refer to them in the various situations life brings.
  - Realize that the methods and instruction you use should \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the phase of life the child is in.
  - Be sure that as they age, you realize you are building into a future peer and friend for all of life. Help them take on the \_\_\_\_\_ of living their life before God.
  
- **Right View of the Gospel Work in the Home**
  - “This is not determinism – we are not shaping passive clay” Tedd Tripp. We do not get to design, sculpt, and set them permanently.
  - They are not a \_\_\_\_\_ we program properly so that we turn it on and they live by the “program.”
  - Be \_\_\_\_\_! God cares and knows your concerns. He hears your prayers. He works in the heart of man. What we see while the children are with us is not the end of their story before God. God changes the heart.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ who is the Sovereign Potter and confidently pray to him for help and for the salvation of your children. Be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in this role He has given you.
  - The gospel teaches us that we are fallen sinners, saved by grace seeking to evangelize and discipline fallen sinners – who also happen to be our \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Our \_\_\_\_\_ and confidence in the gospel is the same whether a child is obedient, defiant, or wayward.
  - Give \_\_\_\_\_ and praise God for the strategic role He has given you in the lives of your children.
    - Spend time with them to learn the unique ways God made them.
    - Get to know them.
    - Become a \_\_\_\_\_ of your children – discover and study them.

- **Special Opportunities in “Hard” Times**

- Times like this often bring wonderful \_\_\_\_\_ to speak to the heart and clarify the gospel.
- Dad & Mom – how do we respond in trials or during the hard phases of parenting? Our responses reveal our ruling desires (James 4:1-4)
  - If wrong desires rule the heart – we will create friction and \_\_\_\_\_ in the home.
  - If the ruling desire of the heart is to please God, to know Him, and to find rest in Him alone, then:
    - \_\_\_\_\_ situations become opportunities to grow in trust, even repentance unto salvation.
    - \_\_\_\_\_ times with the children can lead to humble and honest conversations with the children about the gospel and its centrality.
    - These situations will \_\_\_\_\_ oneness between the parents and they will help the children see a biblical view of life before God.
    - They can see a God-centered, gospel-centered life that \_\_\_\_\_ both good days and bad days, joy and pain, happiness and sorrow.
    - We learn (and \_\_\_\_\_) not to hide from the problems or respond sinfully to the problems, but we see the truth of Scripture and learn a biblical view of life

- **The Gospel in the Home for All of Life**

- “The gospel is a dramatic call away from a life based in idolatry” (Stuart Scott)
  - The unbeliever is ruled by his unregenerate heart which lives to obtain those \_\_\_\_\_ (idols), under his own self-rule.....while being spiritually dead because of sin.
  - The believer has the Spirit of God alive in him/her so that the process of \_\_\_\_\_ or sanctification is the life-long process of heart renewal.
  - This gospel calls the unbeliever to turn from his self-seeking path and turn to God in \_\_\_\_\_ faith in the completed work of Christ.
  - This gospel gives the believer \_\_\_\_\_ of his daily renewal through the Word of God by power of God’s Spirit.
- With this \_\_\_\_\_ view based on the gospel we demonstrate how the Scriptures guide our home and how right theology guides life.

- We do not \_\_\_\_\_ rules that only aim to force behavior or establish an outward righteousness
- We do not impose rules out of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Consider the reality (or myth) of controlling the behavior of children.
  - Children \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord. He lends them to us for a time.
  - Since they are \_\_\_\_\_, it is a myth to gain comfort or confidence that we control their lives (remember the difference in heart vs behavior) or that we control the salvation of their souls – let’s have confidence in Him who saves and not in our own efforts. (confidence in God’s grace and the gospel)
  - The authority you have over your children is given by God and you are \_\_\_\_\_ to Him to properly carry out that role as a parent.
  - Our authority is not simply that we are older, bigger, more powerful, etc.
  - Our authority is a \_\_\_\_\_ given by God and needs to be modeled after how God “parents” His people (both Israel and the church through Jesus).
  - With this biblical background:
    - Provide \_\_\_\_\_ guidance to the children.
    - Provide \_\_\_\_\_ discipline.
    - \_\_\_\_\_ in loving, open communication with the children.
- In time the children will leave the home (that is what we are raising them to do) and if you have only exerted control, they easily move out from under that.
  - Controlling behavior is not the goal – gospel-centered instruction is the goal.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ change is the goal.
  - Remember what God taught the Galatian church about how religious rules were powerless to change or renew the heart of man. See Galatians 2:20-23.
    - Outward rules often have the “\_\_\_\_\_ of wisdom” but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.”
    - The heart is only \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ by God
- Some challenges to anticipate as we disciple our children
  - We might get \_\_\_\_\_ comparing ourselves to others.
  - Dad & Mom will \_\_\_\_\_ sinful desires which might display impatience or anger.

- We tend to want a “\_\_\_\_\_” – but life by faith does not consist of quick fixes.
- We tend to think that church attendance and involvement provides an environment that \_\_\_\_\_ salvation and Christian growth. (the “garage principle”)
- When our aim is outward, or “short-term” (good behavior now!) we will miss the opportunity of pointing the children to the wonder of God’s grace toward them in Christ, and we will miss the opportunity of helping them see the beauty and wonder of the Gospel for their daily life.
- Rather than a \_\_\_\_\_ focus, engage in the lives of your children with the goal of teaching in order to guide their heart to love the Lord above all.
  - Help them \_\_\_\_\_ that God wants the worship of their heart – that knowing Him and finding meaning and pleasure in Him alone is what they were made for.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ them to see that heart obedience is right worship and that this is why we choose certain behaviors and standards.
  - Allow them to see \_\_\_\_\_ pursue God, confess sin, repent, rearrange your life because of the priority to love God above all else.
  - Help them see the \_\_\_\_\_ between the standards your family chooses and the theological truths or commitments you teach. (The Bible applied to life.)
  - Help them understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of standards and behavior with heart renewal
  - Help them see the \_\_\_\_\_ and value of God above all.
  - \_\_\_\_\_, they and we too, are on a lifelong path of learning to worship God and be satisfied in Him alone – that the battle with the idols of our hearts is real and everyday and God will continue His good work in us (Phil 1:6).
- \_\_\_\_\_ out of faith, trust, & confidence in God and how He works:
  - How we pray – He knows and hears – Matt 6:8
  - How we confidently trust their souls to Him.
  - Live by confidence and dependence on the Word (2 Tim 3:16-17, Heb. 4:12-13)
- For what are we preparing our children?
  - A \_\_\_\_\_ view of life. A \_\_\_\_\_ theology.
    - Point them to God and His wonderful gospel.
    - Point them to repentance and delight in God (to “repentant faith”)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ in the home and in school are ways they can honor God, but success in the home and in school are not the source of their righteousness.
  - To understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of Romans 12:1-2, throughout life.

- To \_\_\_\_\_ apply biblical truths and live by faith since they have already begun this process.
- To process their decisions and choices, their priorities and desires from a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ framework.
- That way, they are better equipped to live a life that honors God and finds true rest and fulfillment in Him as they leave the home.

Discipleship Summary & Questions: