

Biblical Parenting Class

The Accommodation of God:

The accommodation of God refers to God making Himself known to man in words and ways suitable for the finite mind to comprehend.

Scrip. Ref: Psalm 68:4-5 – Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Lift up a song for Him who rides through the deserts, Whose name is the LORD, and exult before Him. [5] A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, Is God in His holy habitation.

Psalm 146:9 – The Lord protects the strangers; He supports the fatherless and the widow;

The accommodation of God as it relates to these verses speaks of the Lord condescending to us in our unique family dynamic by providing His support wherever we may be deficient. If you were raised without a father in your life God will nurture and guide you in your parenting even though you never had a positive example of what it is to be a father. Whatever it is you lack as a parent God will supply. Anything that God calls to you to do, you will be totally inadequate to do it, especially when it comes to parenting:

God called Moses. Moses responded I am not a man of words. God said, “I, even I, will be your mouth”: **Scrip. Ref:** Ex. 3:10-12; 4:10-12

God called Gideon. Gideon responded, “I am the youngest in my father’s house.” The Lord responded, “Surely I will be with you”: **Scrip. Ref:** Judges 6:15-16

God doesn’t need your skills, He needs your heart:

Scrip. Ref: Psalm 32:8-11 – I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you. [9] Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, Otherwise they will not come near to you. [10] Many are the sorrows of the wicked; But he who trusts in the Lord, lovingkindness shall surround him. [11] Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones, And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

As long as we are willing to receive instruction from our heavenly Father in and through His Word we will not suffer the sorrows of a guilty conscience. But we will experience His lovingkindness surrounding us as we trust in Him.

The Vow of Parents:

The vow of parents is to instruct and discipline our children as our heavenly Father instructs and disciplines us.

Scrip. Ref: Proverbs 3:11-12 – My son, do not reject the discipline of the Lord, Or loathe His reproof, [12] For whom the Lord loves He reproveth, Even as a father, the son in whom he delights.

Solomon instructs his son that the discipline he received in the home for his mental, emotional and spiritual well-being will not end once he is grown and independent. For the Lord will discipline him through circumstances and consequences in order to humble him unto obedience.

What we as parents are doing is in miniature of what we pray the Lord will do to our children once they grow up and leave the house. We pray the Lord will reprove them so that they may turn to Him. Therefore our parenting is to model our heavenly Father's example of His discipline of us.

Scrip. Ref: Hebrews 12:9-11 – Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? [10] For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness. [11] All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

These verses are an accommodation to us. Our Father deals with us the same way loving earthly fathers and parents deal with their children. The aim of discipline is not to appease our anger, but to lead our children in the right direction for their good, so that they may see their need for the Lord.

Scrip. Ref: Proverbs 31:1-2 – The words of King Lemuel, the oracle which his mother taught him. [2] What, O my son? And what, O son of my womb? And what, O son of my vows?

“the oracle” [Heb. mas-saw – a masculine noun meaning an utterance, a burden or load. It is derived from the verb “nasa” meaning to lift, to bear, to carry. In Ezek. 24:25, you have the phrase “lifting up of the soul,” which describes the desires of the heart. Also the word is applied to certain divine oracles that were negative proclamations.]

“taught” [Heb. yaw-sar – a verb meaning to discipline, to instruct, to chasten, to teach.]

“vows” [Heb. neh-der] a thing promised, a solemn promise to God.]

Before King Lemuel was born his mother made a vow to the Lord that she would raise her son in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. So she sought to teach him the practical wisdom of sowing and reaping in order to direct his heart in the fear the Lord. And her teaching made a deep impression upon his life. He never forgot what his mother taught him [Prov. 31:3-9].

Have you made a vow to the Lord that you will raise your children according to His word?

Quote: A young lady tweeted the other day, “Parenting is hard. That’s it. That’s the tweet”.

Why? Because of the burdens that we carry of concern for the well-being of our children. If our children are young we are burdened about the dangers that come with them being naïve and impressionable. We are burdened with wanting to raise them the right way so that they grow up to be healthy and spiritually well-balanced kids.

If our children are in their teenage years we are concerned about the unique dangers that come in this stage of their development such as sexual temptations, suicidal thoughts, gender identity, defiance against authority, drug and alcohol addiction. All of these burdens should translate into oracles or utterances of instruction. There is a price that comes with good parenting: **P.R.I.C.E.**

Prayerfulness: if we are not praying earnestly with regards to the burdens we have for our children, then we are arrogant in thinking we can change our children.

Repetition: we must instill truth and discipline by constant repetition.

Initiative: our children will not always come to us for guidance. We must initiate conversations, times of devotion, questions about how they are doing and forecasting before them the specific temptations they will face in life.

Commendation: we must praise our children often. It is so important that they hear from us that we love them and are proud of them [1 Thess. 2:7 & 11].

Exhortation: we must counsel them from the word of God. Our children need to understand the grace of God that comes to them through His word.

The Parental Thesis of Child-Rearing:

Parenting is the prayerful effort of developing our children's worldview from me-centeredness to God-centeredness. We must teach and train the gospel into their hearts (1 Thess. 1:9; Eph. 4:17-24). Our children's thinking process consists of suppressing the truth of God's authority over their lives in order to exalt themselves (Romans 1:18-25). This relates to our children regardless of their age. And this thinking pattern will persist in their nature for the rest of their lives if God doesn't save them. No one, including our children can naturally grow out of their "me-centered nature" (depravity).

Common examples of "me-centeredness" is when our children take our gifts and misconstrues them as their rights. They misconstrue our sacrifices for them as offerings to their ego. Our cute little children are born ingrates (Romans 1:21).

A Gospel Witness throughout Each Stage of Development:

Youth [2-12 years old]: In this stage of development parents are beginning to establish routines and boundaries in their children's life: teaching manners, verbal commands, devotional time, nap time, bedtime, cleaning room etc. There are two important areas of instruction at this stage:

Teach Awareness of the World [Mind]: The intent is to inform the naïve mind so as to discern the difference between what is good and bad in the world. In this stage of development we must take the initiative in helping our children understand the type of world they live in. There are good things in the world and there are bad things in the world. Good things: male and female created in the image of God, ethnic diversity, education, working, relationships, recreation etc. Bad things: gender fluid, racism, evolution, laziness, child molestation (improper touching) etc.

Teach Awareness of God [Heart]: A God-centered theology is meant to bring the “me-centered mentality” under conviction. We must teach them that God is holy and perfect and we are bad and sinful. We must teach them that God loves them and desires for them to love Him through His Son Jesus. We must teach them that God sees, knows and will bring every secret wrong to light. We must show the love of God towards them by affirming our love for them, having fun with them, praying with them, teaching them responsibility, confessing our sins when we have treated them wrong and restoring them when we discipline them.

Young Adult (13-18): In this stage of development parents are seeking to reason with our physical mature but mentally immature young adult. This reasoning comes by teaching principles and lessons that primarily have to do with the law of sowing and reaping. Solomon teaches in the book of Proverbs that the fear of the Lord [sowing] leading to blessings, while rejecting the fear of the Lord [sowing] leads to pain. If our children are not born again at this point, their sin of unbelief will question the legitimacy of the spiritual law of sowing and reaping by thinking he/she can disobey God and experience blessings.

Teach Awareness of the World [Mind]: Do not hide the ugly side of being in a fallen world. Everything in life does not have a happy ending. The world system is lying to them that they are good, that they can be whoever they want to be and have whatever they want to have. If they ingest these lies they will be ruined mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually.

Therefore our instruction has to become more and more of a burden as we address the various topics that are unique to this age range: intolerance against parental authority, identity, dating, sex, suicide, social boundaries, mental & emotional struggles, how male and females think about the opposite sex, same sex attraction, accountability, work ethic, parent & young adult boundaries of respect and responsibility (Eph. 6:1-3), teaching the importance of community over against selfishness (Joshua 3); the value of one’s name over against the idol of one’s looks (Eccles. 7:1).

Teach Awareness of God [Heart]: God-centered theology will subdue “me-centeredness mentality” in the end [Prov. 1:20-33]. Continue to teach that the Lord loves them but doesn’t not excuse their sin. Teach them to always interpret their experiences in light of God’s providence. Think through ways to discipline our children as they get older (removal of privileges). Pray, pray, pray for your child to come to Jesus.

Sermon Notes: Mark 9:14-29 – When the Devil Has Your Child:

One reason why our faith is weak is because of our pride in thinking that God is depended on us to do what only He can do. Weak faith comes from self-dependence. Strong faith comes from dependence on God alone. Our weak faith not only hinders our walk and service for the Lord but it also grieves the Lord – Mark 9:19 – “Bring him to Me!” – “Bring” [phero – to bring; present imperative active; 2nd person plural]

8 Signs of a child under demonic influence:

1. disrespectful and disobedient to parents
2. hostile or indifferent to the gospel
3. drug or alcohol addicted
4. worldly lifestyle
5. a member of a false religion or cult
6. sexually immoral
7. once professed faith in Christ but abandoned the faith
8. suicidal

How many know that our children and grandchildren were born spiritually sick? In fact, the Bible would say spiritually dead, instead of spiritually sick. According to Ephesians 2:1-2, the Scriptures says that our children as well as us before salvation were naturally and instinctively bent towards walking according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience [Eph. 2:1-2]. There is a spirit at work in our children's nature from the time of birth. It is displayed in their defiant behavior against God and us. And after years and years of correction, counseling, discipline, scared straight, boot-camp, juvenile detention, rehab, psychological evaluations, common sense reasoning and other tactics to get the attention of our young children and adult children that spirit is still present in them. We have tried everything. When we are met by such defiant behavior we are told in Ephesians 6:12 – “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places”.

Notice that the father knew the problem was spiritual warfare and he did not leave his son at home. He brought him to Jesus. His son was constantly under demonic attack. And the father knew he could not leave his son at home alone. He needed to bring him to Jesus. How do we bring our children to Jesus? 1] When they are young bring them to church; 2] Expose them to the Word of God at home. Devotions; 3] Walk with Jesus on their presence. Live a Christian life before them; 4] Pray with them; 5] Help them to interpret life in light of the reality of God's existence and our accountability to Him; 6] Discipline them in the Lord; When they are older – 1] Walk with Jesus in their presence; 2] Invite them to church; 3] Buy them a good study Bible; 4] Pray for them]

Jesus is not asking the father of this child a question in order to gain information but in order to demonstrate compassion. What should we learn from this parents? Tell Jesus everything. Tell Him all your concerns about your child. Your explanation of the situation is not informing Jesus of anything. It is a benefit for you to pour out your heart to the Lord in order that He may demonstrate Himself as your sympathetic High Priest. It is in the sharing that Jesus will began to do the caring.

Jesus would never command you to trust in Him, if He had intentions to fail you. He would never command you to believe in Him, if He had no intentions of not doing anything to help you. The command to believe is simply an encouraging invitation from Jesus to put Himself on display in your situation. Listen, the Lord may not always give you what you want but He will always give you what you need.

Quote: “Any concern too small to be turned into a prayer is too small to be made into a burden”.

The Failures of Parenting:

1. Failing to lovingly and consistently discipline your child when he or she does not obey or honor you as God commands
2. Failing to affirm your love for your child and spending time with them
3. Failing to pray for their salvation
4. Failing to proclaim the gospel to them
5. Failing to provide an example of true Christian living before them
6. Failing to keep your promises
7. Failing to admit when you are wrong
8. Failing to discipline in love instead of anger
9. Failing to admit where your child is spiritually or to admit his problems
10. Failing to restore your child when his is broken over his wrong or after discipline has been administered
11. Failing to forgive instead of constantly reminding the child of his faults
12. Failing to commend them when they do good
13. Failing to allow room for growth and experience
14. Failing to remember you are just as sinful as your child
15. Failing to be patient in the process of maturation
16. Failing to teach them the importance of work and responsibility
17. Failing to warn them of the dangers of sin (sexual immorality, drunkenness etc...)
18. Failing to remember that the Lord is not requiring us to be perfect parents but humble ones
19. Failing to remember you can't parent without God's help
20. Failing to remember that after you have done all you are supposed to do your child will still decide to disobey your wishes. You are not the blame for your child's rebellion only if you don't seek to help them.

Parenting Questions:

1) How does one handle correction/discipline of the other parent, when they don't agree with it at times? More so, how do you handle it in the moment?

Always talk through your disagreements privately; 2] Explain why you feel the correction or type of discipline is wrong. Make sure your reasons come from principles of Scripture; 3] Develop an agreed upon strategy of discipline.

2) Wisdom on when one parent wants another baby right now, and the other parent does not.

The Lord wants the marriage relationship to be on one accord, meaning neither the husband or wife has a right to simply disagree without being sympathetic and sensitive to the desires of the other [1 Cor. 7:1-7]. Also, the Lord want the marriage relationship to operate by faith. Are the reasons for not wanting a child an expression of a lack of faith? The couple must work through their struggles together by sharing their heart, praying about their struggles and seeking God's will through His word.

3) A refresh on physical and verbal correction (pg. 10 & 11 of old packet)

Biblical Correction: means to instruct our children's heart that rebellion [self-actualization] will never lead to happiness by having them to experience the painful consequences for their actions.

Rules for Physical Correction:

1) Never administer physical discipline when you are angry (Prov. 25:28; Eph. 4:26-27; James 1:20) – Quote: Dr. Michael Svigel "I can't recall ever making a wise decision out of hatred, fear or anger".

2) Explain why physical discipline is necessary to the child and mention how many times the child will be disciplined [personal rule no more than 5 times]. This enables the parent to exercise self-control in order to avoid physical abuse. The aim of physical discipline is not for the parent to vent their frustration, but for the child to learn to connect disobedience to pain [Prov. 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14]

3) Be consistent in your discipline or else your corrections will appear to the child as you taking it personal. In other words, never wait until you are angry when it is time to discipline but correct your child when you see he/she is disobedient. Physical discipline has to be governed by principle not angry feelings [Prov. 19:18]

4) Discipline the child in private. Never seek to humiliate them in front of their siblings, friends or strangers. We are not seeking to shame him but to correct him.

5) The lesson of physical discipline is to train our children that they have no right to act anyway they want. At the heart of every act of defiance is a desire to live independent of God's will and a disdain for submission to God-given authority [Prov. 29:15; 17]

Rules for Verbal Correction:

- 1) Never use profanity or vulgarity in confronting their sin (Eph. 4:29). Avoid yelling at your children as much as possible. The aim is not for them to hear how upset you are but for them to understand how serious their acts of disobedience was. If the child comes away thinking about the things that upset you as oppose to what they did wrong they will never see the need to turn away from their sin.
- 2) Do not demean your children with your words. The Bible calls us to never pay back evil for evil. If you are hurt or offended by what your child has done, then it is best to seek the Lord first before you discipline your child. Remembering that the Lord is in control and that He has allowed your child to sin in order to expose his heart so that we can lead him to Christ will help us not to take it personal. The Lord is sovereign in controlling all things, even when sin is committed (Gen. 20:6; 50:20).

The Goal of Discipline is Restoration not Punishment:

Teach Your Kids to Apologize for Mistakes but to Repent of Sin – [the difference between saying sorry or apologizing and repentance]: Sorry/Apology is seeking to change the attitude of those you hurt towards you. The person may not be broken over what he has done only remorseful for how it has affected a negative attitude of himself before others. Repentance is a change in your attitude of hating the sin itself and desiring to turn away from it. The person is broken over his sin and is willing to accept the consequences for his actions. Sorry is not being broken over the offense but what it caused. Repentance is being broken over the offense and willing to accept the discipline that comes with it.

Share the Gospel with Your Kids After You Discipline Them:

This is what determines whether the discipline you have administered was governed by a compassionate love that is grieved at your child's fallen condition or venting personal frustration. Discipline along with the gospel helps our children to understand:

- 1) They are not their own authority: how they feel about themselves is never the starting point for determining who they are or how they are to respond to the world around them.
- 2) They are held accountable to the Lord for every sin they commit.
- 3) There will always be painful consequences for every sinful act: (Gal. 6:7 – Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap). Our children must understand for every sin sown there will be a harvest of corruption to follow.
- 4) They are in bondage to the sin that will eventually destroy them. Our discipline cannot remove the sin nature from our children's heart, but it can keep their conscience sensitive in accusing them of their own wretchedness.
- 5) The gospel is the only power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). After we discipline we share why it was necessary for God the Son to come in the person of Jesus Christ in order to deliver us from our sin and its consequences through His death on the cross and resurrection.