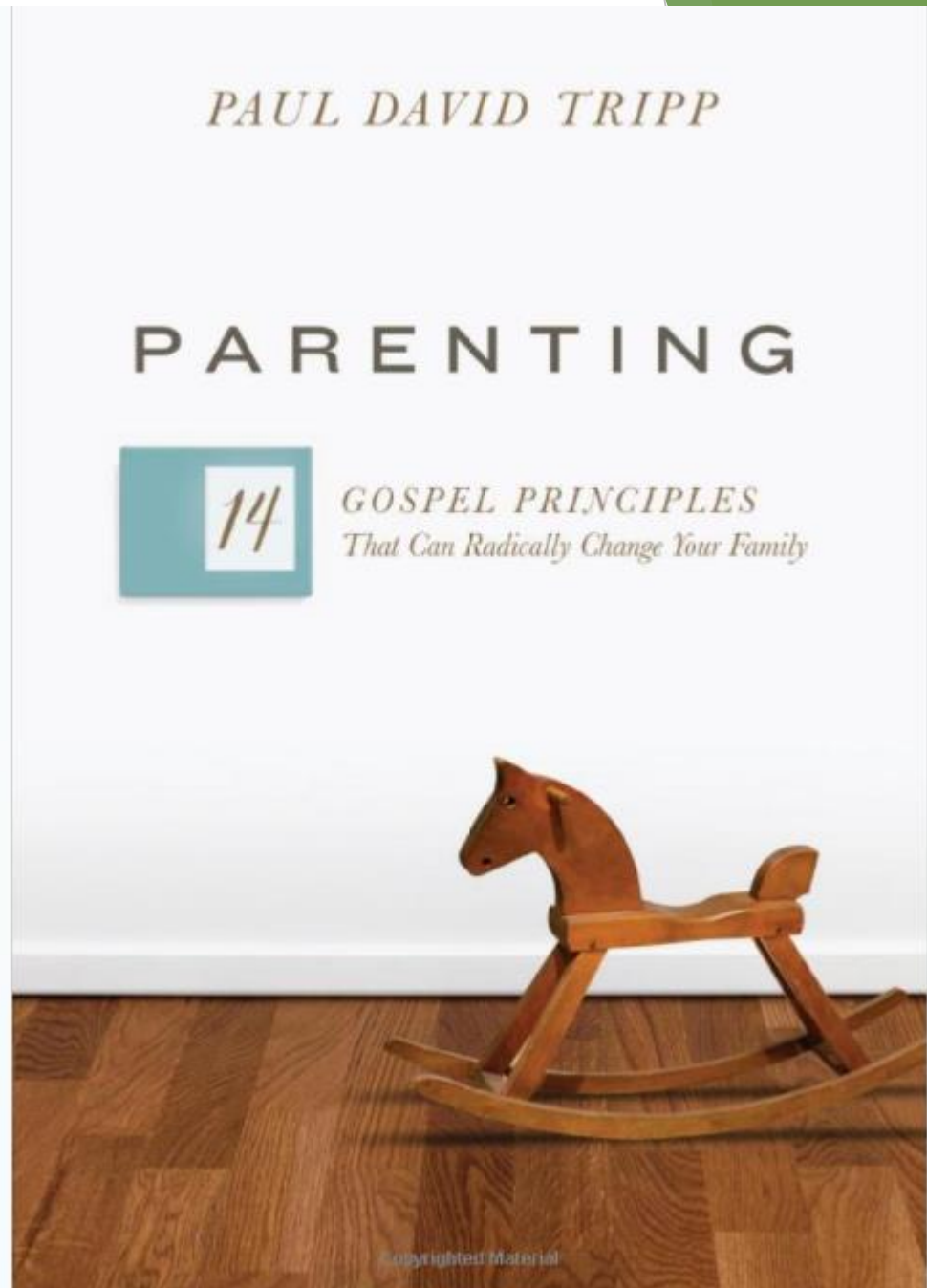


Parenting - 14 Gospel Principles



What are the Biggest Challenges of Parenting?

- ▶ Disagreements among parents
- ▶ Inconsistency
- ▶ Being a role model
- ▶ Impatience
- ▶ Tantrums
- ▶ Disobedience
- ▶ Disagreements
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Connection with children
- ▶ Lack of common interests
- ▶ Work life balance
- ▶ Time limitations
- ▶ Energy limitations
- ▶ Value/moral/faith transmission

What are the Biggest Challenges of Parenting?

- ▶ Disobedience
- ▶ Lying
- ▶ Shyness
- ▶ Frequent tantrums
- ▶ Laziness
- ▶ Constant whining
- ▶ Aggressive and violent behavior
- ▶ Poor eating habits
- ▶ (Digital) addiction
- ▶ Sibling rivalry
- ▶ Physical illness
- ▶ Depression mental illness
- ▶ Lack of emotional bonding
- ▶ Co-parenting
- ▶ Failure to impart moral values and faith
- ▶ Communication gap
- ▶ Generational gap
- ▶ Cultural gap
- ▶ Time and resources
- ▶ Work life balance

Parenting - 14 Gospel Principles

- Paul Tripp

- ▶ Big picture parenting worldview

Parenting - 14 Gospel Principles

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- ▶ Big picture parenting worldview
- ▶ 1. Calling
- ▶ 2. Grace
- ▶ 3. Law
- ▶ 4. Inability
- ▶ 5. Identity
- ▶ 6. Process
- ▶ 7. Law
- ▶ 8. Authority
- ▶ 9. Foolishness
- ▶ 10. Character
- ▶ 11. False Gods
- ▶ 12. Control
- ▶ 13. Rest
- ▶ 14. Mercy

Who are we as a Parent?

- ▶ Owners vs. Ambassadors
- ▶ Owner parents: motivated by what parents want *for* their children and *from* their children
- ▶ Ambassador parents: faithfully represent the One who sent us
- ▶ Psalm 127:3-4 Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth.
- ▶ 詩篇 127:3-4 兒女是耶和華所賜的產業；所懷的胎是他所給的賞賜。少年時所生的兒女好像勇士手中的箭。

Psalm 127 - A Psalm about Family

- ▶ Psalm 127:1-2 Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat— for he grants sleep to those he loves.
- ▶ 詩篇 127:1-2 若不是耶和華建造房屋，建造的人就枉然勞力；若不是耶和華看守城池，看守的人就枉然警醒。你們清晨早起，夜晚上歇，吃勞碌得來的飯，本是枉然；惟有耶和華所親愛的，必叫他安然睡覺。

Characteristics of Owner vs. Ambassador Parents

1. Identity: where do we get our identity, meaning, purpose, and well-being?
2. Reputation: trophy children vs. glorifying God
3. Work: relying on ourselves vs. relying on God
4. Success: measure with what we have produced vs. what you have done

Similarity with Stephen Ministry

- ▶ Result-Oriented Caregiving and Process-Oriented Caregiving - both want the best for the care receiver

Result-Oriented Caregivers	Process-Oriented Caregivers
Try to do for others what only God can do	Concentrate on what they are able to do and leave the results to God
Focus on caregiving, on try to solve others' problems	Concentrate on caring for others
Foster dependency by making decisions for others	Foster dependence on God, and self-reliance, by helping others make their own decisions
Use their caregiving to satisfy self-centered needs to feel good about themselves and in control	Focus their other-centered care on providing what their care receivers need
Try to control others' behaviors	Try to control their own behavior

Application

- ▶ Am I an ownership parent or an ambassador parent?
- ▶ How to turn from an ownership parent to an ambassador parent?

Class 2

- ▶ Principle 1 - Calling
 - ▶ Communicating with our children
- ▶ Principle 6 - Process

Principle 1: Calling - Nothing is more important in your life than being one of God's tools to form a human soul

- ▶ What is the central task of a parent?
- ▶ Look back at:
 - ▶ How did we spend our time / energy / money?
 - ▶ What did we worry about?
 - ▶ What did we pray for?

Deut. 申命記 6:4-6

- ▶ *⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.*
- ▶ 4 以色列阿，你要聽！耶和華—我們神是獨一的主。
- ▶ 5 你要盡心、盡性、盡力愛耶和華—你的神。
- ▶ 6 我今日所吩咐你的話都要記在心上，

Deut. 申命記 6:7-9

- ▶ *7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*
- ▶ 7 也要殷勤教訓你的兒女。無論你坐在家裡，行在路上，躺下，起來，都要談論。
- ▶ 8 也要繫在手上為記號，戴在額上為經文；
- ▶ 9 又要寫在你房屋的門框上，並你的城門上。

Deut. 申命記 6:20-23

- ▶ *20 In the future, when your son asks you, “What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the LORD our God has commanded you?” 21 tell him: “We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. 22 Before our eyes the LORD sent signs and wonders—great and terrible—on Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household. 23 But he brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land he promised on oath to our ancestors.*
- ▶ 20 日後，你的兒子問你說：耶和華—我們神吩咐你們的這些法度、律例、典章是甚麼意思呢？
- ▶ 21 你就告訴你的兒子說：我們在埃及作過法老的奴僕；耶和華用大能的手將我們從埃及領出來，
- ▶ 22 在我們眼前，將重大可怕的神蹟奇事施行在埃及地和法老並他全家的身上，
- ▶ 23 將我們從那裡領出來，要領我們進入他向我們列祖起誓應許之地，把這地賜給我們。

Central Task of a Parent

- ▶ Used by God to create in our children:
 - ▶ God-consciousness: Verse 20 “When your son asks you ...”

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How do we talk to our children about God every day?

How do we talk to our children every day?

How do we talk to our children?

How do we communicate with our children?

What are the Challenges in Communicating with our children?

- ▶ Children not opening up
- ▶ No time
- ▶ Nothing meaningful to talk about
- ▶ Annoy each other, get into arguments
- ▶ Not understanding or cannot relate to each other - gaps

How do we communicate with our children?

- ▶ Really Listen. Why is it so hard to listen well?
 - ▶ Our natural desire is to talk
 - ▶ We judge quickly
 - ▶ We have preconceptions and biases
 - ▶ Our ego gets in the way
 - ▶ We multitask

The 5 levels of listening...



1. Ignoring
2. Pretend listening
3. Selective listening
4. Attentive listening
 - ▶ Avoid distractions
 - ▶ Listen to more than just words (e.g., what is not said, recurrent themes, changes, feelings, spiritual concerns)
 - ▶ Ask questions (open-ended, clarifying, not too many)
 - ▶ Reflect (content, feelings, concerns)
5. Emphatic listening Empathy

How do we communicate with our children?

- ▶ Really Listen. Most of us do more talking than listening.
- ▶ Come Alongside Your Children.
- ▶ Don't Give Unwanted Advice.
- ▶ Check Your Tone And Body Language.
- ▶ Be Real.
- ▶ It's Not About You.

How do we talk about God every day?

- ▶ Don't preach a sermon
- ▶ Prayers
- ▶ Prayer requests
- ▶ Devotion
- ▶ Meal time
- ▶ School work
- ▶ Church
- ▶ Nature
- ▶ Relationship

Class 3

- ▶ Principle 4 - Inability: Recognizing what you are unable to do is essential to good parenting
- ▶ Principle 8 - Authority : One of the foundational heart issues in the life of every child is authority. Teaching and modeling the protective beauty of authority is one of the foundations of good parenting.

Controlling Children's Behavior

- ▶ What are the most often used tools?
 - ▶ Fear / threat
 - ▶ Reward
 - ▶ Shame

What are the Limitations of Using Threats, Reward, Shame to Control Behavior?

- ▶ We can't carry through
- ▶ Children no longer fear
- ▶ Do it behind your back
- ▶ Temporary compliance
- ▶ Ever-increasing rewards
- ▶ Children no longer care
- ▶ No heart change

What are the Negative Impacts of Using Threats, Reward, Shame to Control Behavior?

- ▶ Long term negative legacy between parents and children
- ▶ Negative image
- ▶ Good behavior for sale

Principle 4: Inability - Recognizing what you are unable to do is essential to good parenting

- ▶ You have no power whatsoever to change your child. God has given you authority for the work of change, but has not granted you the power to make the change happen.
- ▶ What is the “work of change”?
 - ▶ Learning what is right
 - ▶ Acknowledging what is right
 - ▶ Confessing you have been wrong
 - ▶ Committed to a new way of living
 - ▶ Seeking the help you need to do it

Principle 4: Inability - Recognizing what you are unable to do is essential to good parenting

- ▶ Danger of believing you have the power to change
- ▶ Participate in the “work of change” and rest in the power and grace of God

Principle 8: Authority - One of the foundational heart issues in the life of every child is authority. Teaching and modeling the protective beauty of authority is one of the foundations of good parenting.

- ▶ Ephesians 6:4 “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; instead, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”
- ▶ 以弗所書 6:4 “你們作父親的，不要惹兒女的氣，只要照著主的教訓和警戒養育他們。”
- ▶ What does “discipline” mean?
- ▶ How do we “bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord”?

Principle 8: Authority

- ▶ Discipline as an ambassador of the Lord
 - ▶ Not abusive, angry, impatient, or selfish
 - ▶ Respect and love
 - ▶ Valued and important
- ▶ Discipline with clear instructions of the Lord
 - ▶ What we expect them to do
 - ▶ Why they should do what we tell them to do
 - ▶ Why they do what they do
- ▶ Establish authority early in little things
- ▶ Exercise consistent authority
- ▶ Exercise discipline *of the Lord*

Class 4

- ▶ **Principle 10: Character** - Not all of the wrong your children do is a direct rebellion to authority; much of the wrong is the result of a lack of character
- ▶ **Principle 11: False gods** - you are parenting a worshiper, so it's important to remember that what rules your child's heart will control his behavior
- ▶ **Principle 14: Mercy** - No parent gives mercy better than one who is convinced that he desperately needs it himself
- ▶ **Principle 6: Process** - You must be committed as a parent to long-view parenting because change is a process and not an event. You are called to a life-long process

Principle 10: Character - Not all of the wrong your children do is a direct rebellion to authority; much of the wrong is the result of a lack of character

- ▶ What are the typical character issues we encounter in our children?
 - ▶ Lack of courage, lack of temperance, lazy, favoritisms, lack of self-control, lack motivation, strong willed, selfish, ...
- ▶ Character issues are a result of worship issues

Romans 1:25, 28-32

- ▶ ²⁵ They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.
- ▶ ²⁸ Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice.
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Romans 1:25, 28-32

- ▶ They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. ³² Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.
- ▶ ³⁰ 又是讒毀的、背後說人的、怨恨神的（或作：被神所憎惡的）、侮慢人的、狂傲的、自誇的、捏造惡事的、違背父母的。³¹ 無知的，背約的，無親情的，不憐憫人的。³² 他們雖知道神判定行這樣事的人是當死的，然而他們不但自己去行，還喜歡別人去行。

Character Management => Worship Realignment

- ▶ Worship realignment: worshiping the creator instead of the creation
- ▶ Three questions:
 1. Why do my children do the things they do?
 2. How can change take place in my children's hearts and lives? - not just control behavior
 3. How can I be a tool of change in the hearts and lives of my children?
 - a) Committed to be an "instrument of seeing"
 - b) Lead children to confession

Principle 14: Mercy - No parent gives mercy better than one who is convinced that he desperately needs it himself

- ▶ Your primary calling as a parent is not first to represent God's judgment, but rather to constantly deliver His mercy

Mercy is not ...

- ▶ Wishy washy
- ▶ Letting down standard
- ▶ Bad things are ok
- ▶ Abandon discipline and correction
- ▶ Let children decide what they are not mature enough to decide
- ▶ Always saying yes and never saying no

Mercy is ...

- ▶ Parenting with a tender heart
- ▶ Not taking your children's failures personally, but with compassion
- ▶ Patience
- ▶ Just as careful to encourage as to rebuke
- ▶ Kind discipline and gentle correction
- ▶ Firm and unyielding and loving at the same time
- ▶ Refuse to indulge our own irritation and anger
- ▶ Don't condemn with a barrage of harsh words
- ▶ Don't compare your righteousness to your children's sin
- ▶ Not allowing our heart to grow bitter or cold
- ▶ Always ready to forgive, not making children pay for sins of yesterday
- ▶ Love even when they don't deserve love
- ▶ Willing to do thing again and again without throwing it at their faces
- ▶ Refusing to motivate your children by shame and threat
- ▶ Tempering every action, reaction, and response with tenderness, understanding, compassion, and love

What We Went Through

- ▶ Class 1
 - ▶ Introduction - Owner parenting vs. ambassador parenting
- ▶ Class 2
 - ▶ Principle 1 - Calling
- ▶ Class 3
 - ▶ Principle 4 - Inability
 - ▶ Principle 8 - Authority
- ▶ Class 4
 - ▶ Principle 10 - Character
 - ▶ Principle 11 - False Gods
- ▶ Class 5
 - ▶ Summary
 - ▶ Principle 13 - Rest

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Class 2 - Calling: Central Task of a Parent

- ▶ Used by God to create in our children:
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- ▶ Willing to do thing again and again without throwing it at their faces
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Principle 13: Rest - It is only rest in God's presence and grace that will make you a joyful and patient parent

- ▶ Remember the One who sent us, and in remembering, teach our heart to rest
- ▶ What is resting in God?

Matthew 馬太福音 28:18-20

- ▶ ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
- ▶ ¹⁸ 耶穌進前來，對他們說：天上地下所有的權柄都賜給我了。
- ▶ ¹⁹ 所以，你們要去，使萬民作我的門徒，奉父、子、聖靈的名給他們施洗。
- ▶ ²⁰ 凡我所吩咐你們的，都教訓他們遵守，我就常與你們同在，直到世界的末了。

Practical Implications of our Rest in God

- ▶ You are not left to your limited resources
 - ▶ Past grace, present grace, future grace
- ▶ You will not be punished for your failure
- ▶ You are welcomed by grace to new beginning
- ▶ God blesses you with the right here, right now wisdom of His word
- ▶ You do not have to load the burden of your children's welfare on your shoulders every morning. God will never close His ears to your cries for help
- ▶ Weakness is not a curse; it's a blessing
- ▶ Success is about faithfulness, not results

Principle 6: Process - You must be committed as a parent to long-view parenting because change is a process and not an event

- ▶ Parenting is not a series of events, but a lifelong process
 - ▶ Unrealistic expectations lead to frustration
- ▶ Why is parenting a process?
 - ▶ Children are blind to their sins. They think they are ok.
 - ▶ They are blind to their blindness.
 - ▶ Parents are blind too.

Principle 6 - Process

- ▶ Parenting with a process mentality
- ▶ Parenting as one unending conversation
- ▶ Parenting with a project mentality

What Now?

- ▶ Q & A
- ▶ What is the one best parenting tip you have learned?
- ▶ What prayer requests do you have?