

Parenting: Establishing Authority

Session I | The Goal of Parenting

****Note: Items in BLUE are not found in class participant notes****

The discussion around parenting is important because:

1. We function generally off of our instincts, and they are not always correct.
2. We cannot depend on the culture for a definition of parenting.

The goal of parenting is discipleship

- Training in kindness at a very early age is essential to get to a child's heart.
- As you train a child, you should always be pointing him or her to Christ and the Gospel.
- Your child should leave your home as your friend and a Christ-follower.

A Biblical Mandate (Deuteronomy 6:1-9NLT)

*"These are the commands, decrees, and regulations that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you. You must obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy, **2** and you and your children and grandchildren must fear the Lord your God as long as you live. If you obey all his decrees and commands, you will enjoy a long life. **3** Listen closely, Israel, and be careful to obey. Then all will go well with you, and you will have many children in the land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.*

***4** "Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.[a] **5** And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. **6** And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today.*

***7** Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. **8** Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders.*

***9** Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

Big Idea = Multi-generational following of God

Parenting and Discipline

Discipline is not equal to Punishment

Two kinds of discipline

1. Formative (Proactive Training)
2. Corrective

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

--Proverbs 22:15 ESV

You Will Reproduce Who You Are

To disciple your child, you must first be a disciple.

When training young children, there is a short window of time to mature in your faith. By the time your child is pre-teen, you must be extremely:

- Knowledgeable
- Powerful
- Accessible

Parenting for the Future: we must get some things going in the right direction today so that we can be ready for tomorrow.

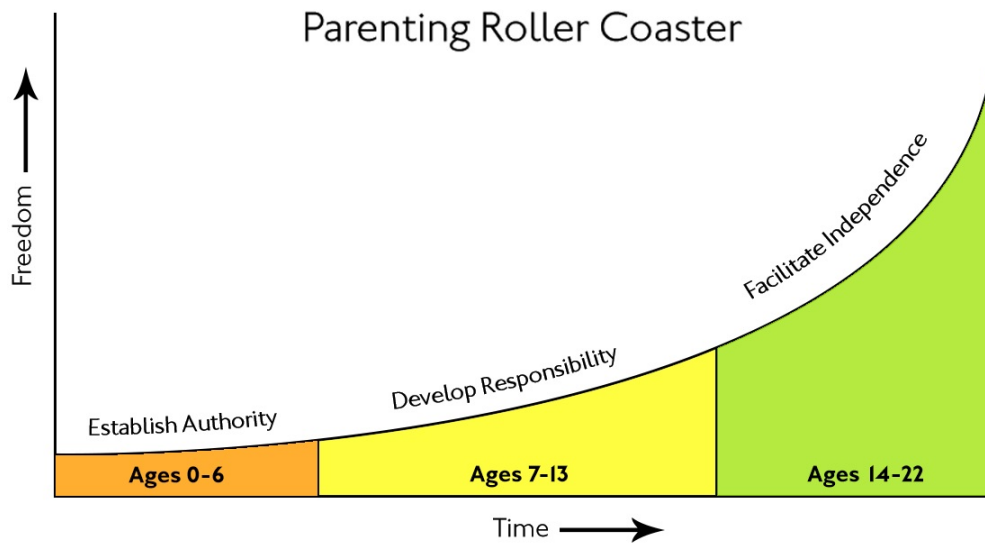
A Word to Dads

Both masculine and feminine energy is needed in the home. When both are present, there *will* be tension.

Whatever it is that makes you great at work is what you should bring into your home.

Parenting Roller Coaster

Establishing Authority is foundational to everything else



When the order is reversed, you will find that you will be grab for control when your teenager rebels, in a time where you should be releasing.

Self Mastery: the ability to put yourself under authority and to release your agenda to someone else's agenda.

First Time Obedience and Self-Mastery

When we count, our child is dictating the terms under which he or she will obey.

Stages Of Parenting

1. Establish Authority
2. Develop Responsibility

Critical Idea = Pride

Developing healthy responsibility humbles a child - *We have a whole generation that is arrogant and prideful, but not **competent** because they are not carrying any weight.*

3. Facilitate Independence (A parent functions as a Coach in this stage.)

Compliant vs. Strong-willed Child

Sometimes a child seems strong-willed because he has never been required to obey. (Obedience has never been enforced with consequences)

Getting to the Heart

Getting to the heart of a child is a process.

You must constantly hold the Gospel out to your child, reminding him that you are *both* in need.

In the middle of a disciplining moment, you are pointing you child back to Christ to help her see her sin.

23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. **24** I'll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!"

-Matthew 19:23-24 NLT

Dealing with Inadequacy

The truth is that we *are* inadequate as parents and we need Jesus.

- You cannot give our child the Gospel if we are not in the Word ourselves.
- We must continually acknowledge our inadequacies to God.
- Acknowledge to your child that you do not have it all together.
- Apologize to your child when you make a mistake or have a wrong response.
- Come to your child with a humble spirit.

Feeling inadequate is part of God's design and should draw you to Him.

Discussion Questions

1. Introduce yourself to the others in your group. Share a little about your family and what you hope to learn from this class.
2. Where is it easy to see your inadequacy as a parent? How is God teaching you, exposing you or disciplining you through this?
3. How can discipline be an opportunity to reach your child's heart? Will you always be able to "get to the heart" of your child? Why or why not?
4. What are some other biblical principles you learned from this session?
5. What is one biblical principle that you think is lacking in your home? What is a small step you can take to begin to implement that in your home?