

PARENTING: 14 GOSPEL PRINCIPLES

THAT CAN RADICALLY CHANGE YOUR FAMILY

WORSHIP + 2

- **Worship - Psalm 95:2** Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him.
- **Connect - Hebrews 10: 23-25**—Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
- **Serve - 1 Peter 4:10-11**—As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

- Come prepared by having read and interacted with the materials. Interact = underline, write in the margins, question statements, look at the referenced Scripture and its context.
- Class time will include interactive discussion in small groups, and in the large group.
- In group conversations - be mindful of the group. Some are comfortable expressing their thoughts while others are not comfortable. The key is to have a balanced representation of participants in the group.
- Some of you are natural facilitators, ergo....facilitate wide participation.

LAST WEEK'S OVERVIEW OF THE INTRO: "AMBASSADORS" AND CH. 1 - "CALLING":

- Two parenting perspectives:
 - Ownership Parenting
 - Ambassadorial Parenting
- Your parenting perspective influences what you see as your role or "calling":
 - A role based on self-reliance control
 - A role based on God-reliance and release of control
- Your role determines your values
 - Values regarding your time, possessions, hobbies, work, relationships, etc.

THE FLOW OF THE CHAPTER CONTENT:

Your parenting-perspective (Ambassador/Owner) influences your



Role/Calling which influences your



Values

TWO PARENTING PERSPECTIVES:

Ownership Parenting	Ambassadorial Parenting
<p>An owner parent derives identity, meaning, purpose, and inner sense of well-being from what their children become and how they give back to them.</p>	<p>An ambassador parent derives identity, meaning, purpose and inner sense of well-being from the One whom they represent and serve.</p>

TWO PARENTING PERSPECTIVES:

Ownership Parenting	Ambassadorial Parenting
<p>An owner parent is driven by what they want their children to be and what they want their children to give to them in return, believing they have the personal power and resources to shape their children into what they want them to be.</p>	<p>An ambassador parent recognizes that children are God's gifts whom He entrusts to them, believing that as parents, they are called to be instruments in the hands of the One who has the ultimate power to rescue and transform the children.</p>

WORLDVIEW INFLUENCES YOUR PARENTING PERSPECTIVE:

- **A worldview definition:** the lens through which we view the world, affects all we think, do and say, whether we are conscious of it or not.

WORLDVIEW

The Biblical Worldview	The Secular Worldview
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This view sees God at the center of all things and that He is the ultimate norm by which truth and values are determined.• This view sees and interprets the world through the lens of unchanging Scripture, which is God's revelation of Truth to us.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This view sees man at the center of all things and that mankind is the ultimate norm by which truth and values are determined.• This view sees and interprets the world through man's lens of self-value and his shifting opinions shaped by cultural trends/values.

CALLING

CHAPTER 1

- “Principle: ~~Nothing~~ Nothing is more important in your life than being one of God’s tools to ~~form~~ shape a human soul.”
- Clarification: Our relationship with Jesus is most important

GOD CALLS US TO A HOLY CALLING

- “Who saved us and **called us to a holy calling**, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began” 2Timothy 1:9
- “...everyone who is called by my name, **whom I created for my glory**, whom I formed and made.” Isaiah 43:7

CLARIFICATION OF INTRO AND CH.1 OVERVIEW:

OUR CALLING TO/ FOLLOW JESUS IS FOUNDATIONAL IN INFLUENCING HOW WE LIVE:

It is our “calling” that fundamentally influences



our “worldview,” which, in turn, influences



our parenting perspective, which, in turn influences



how we execute our role and implement our values

HOW DO YOUR VALUES REFLECT YOUR CALLING?

HOW DOES YOUR CALLING REFLECT YOUR VALUES?

- If a drone with video/audio/thought capacity recorded your life for past 2 months, what would your neighbor conclude about your values?
- “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. Matt. 6:20



HOW DO YOUR VALUES/TREASURES REFLECT YOUR CALLING IN THESE AREAS?

- In your possessions?
- In your career?
- Your relationships?
- Your hobbies?
- Your money?
- Your time?
- Your relationship-with-Jesus?

HOW DO YOUR VALUES ALIGN WITH YOUR CALLING IN CHRIST JESUS?

- What kind of gaps do you observe between what you say you value and how you live your values?
- What do you do to close those gaps?

LAST WEEK'S HOMEWORK

- What everyday experiences serve as springboards to point your children to the wonder of God and His work of grace in your life?

GRACE - CHAPTER 2

- Principle: God never calls you to a task without giving you what you need to do it. He never sends you without going with you.

WHAT IS GRACE?

- **Grace:** unmerited divine assistance given to humans for their regeneration or sanctification
- **Regenerate:** spiritually reborn or converted
- **Sanctify:** to set apart to a sacred purpose or to religious use

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- For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9
 - “Influencing others for Jesus sake, is never more effective than when we personally understand God’s grace poured out on us through the gift of His Son.” - Tripp

PERIODS OF GRACE:

- Past grace
 - Forgiveness through Jesus' life death and resurrection
- Future grace
 - Eternal life as a child of God
- Present grace
 - Sanctifying work of the Spirit of God in your life right now

WHAT MAKES PRESENT GRACE HARD TO ACCEPT?

It's hard to accept that

- **God calls unable people to do important things for His glory.**
 - Our weaknesses always point us to our need for Someone greater than we are.
- **If He calls us, He gives us what we need**
 - Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, “Ephesians 3:20

HOW DOES GOD'S SANCTIFYING GRACE STRENGTHEN US TO INFLUENCE OTHERS?

- **God's grace helps us to see ourselves more accurately.**
 - Recognition of our inadequacy puts us in a posture of humility. "Able" parents tend to be proud, arrogant, self-assured.
- **God's grace frees us from having to deny our weaknesses.**
 - God welcomes you to look into the heart-and-life exposing mirror of his Word to see yourself as you really are and to confess your weaknesses.



HOW DOES GOD'S SANCTIFYING GRACE STRENGTHEN US TO INFLUENCE OTHERS?

- **God grace rescues me from me.**

- He helps me recognize that the problem is not my children, but me.
- He shows me how I'm inclined to shift blame.
- He exposes my hypocrisy—like yelling at my children to stop yelling.

- **God's grace grows and changes me.**

- God sanctifying work is to progressively deliver us from the hold that sin has on us. He uses all the pressures, opportunities, hassles, burdens, sorrows, temptations, and joys to change us.

HOW DOES GOD'S SANCTIFYING GRACE STRENGTHEN US TO INFLUENCE OTHERS?

- **God's grace works to make my heart tender**
 - Difficulties are the tenderizing mercies of a loving and faithful father.
- **God's grace liberates me from the prison of regret—the what ifs and if onlys.**
 - Regret is a sign of recognition of wrongdoing, but remaining in regret robs your confidence, renders you timid, kidnaps your courage, drags the past into the future, debilitates you from shame. And for all its remembering, regret can be tragically forgetful of the cross of Jesus Christ. It's not that you don't remember your failures and grow from them, it's when you're paralyzed by them or crippled by them, so you aren't functioning for what he has called you to.

HOW DOES UNDERSTANDING GOD'S GRACE
CHANGE YOUR MINDSET IN WORKING WITH
OTHERS?

HOW CAN IT CHANGE THE WAY YOU
PARENT YOUR CHILD OR HOW YOU
RELATE TO OTHERS?

WHAT IS THE GREATEST BEHAVIORAL REFLECTION OF GOD'S GRACE?

- The greatest reflection of God's grace is to forgive, unconditionally, just as God forgave us through Christ.
 - "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."
Colossians 3:13
 - Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT MARK OF SANCTIFYING GRACE:

- ³⁷“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”
- ³⁹ He also told them a parable: “Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰ A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. ⁴¹ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴² How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

WHAT GRACE IS NOT:

Other uses of “grace” may trick us to believe grace is something it is not. You will hear phrases like

- Why don't you just extend some grace?
- Thanks for giving me grace.
- But this does not mean the sanctifying grace of God is not a free pass from living as Jesus calls us to.

LAW - CHAPTER 3

Principle: Your children need God's law, but you cannot ask the law to do what only grace can accomplish.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW?

- Strength of the law:
 - Exposes our sin and need for a Savior
 - “Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” Romans 7:7

WHAT IS THE WEAKNESS OF THE LAW?

- Weakness of the law:
 - Will not deliver us from our sin. It can not rescue us, redeem us, or restore us to our Savior.
 - “Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.” Galatians 2:16a

WHAT IS DECEPTIVE ABOUT THE LAW?

- Deception about the law
 - Following the law will make us good.
 - We can grade ourselves and others according to how well we keep it.
 - The law models and motivates us to create our own laws.
 - When are your laws driven by your self-centered/needy expectations?
 - When are your laws more about your misplaced values?
 - When are your laws more about maintaining control?