

Biblical Theology & Parenting

Steve K. McCoy - Doctrine & Devotion 2019

*These are the notes I used at the conference, though I said much more. There is more detail and more thoughts at my blog post [Advice for Parenting Young Kids](#).

Breakout Goals

- I want to help you to feel a renewed sense of purpose and calling in parenting
- I want you to leave with pathway for parenting change

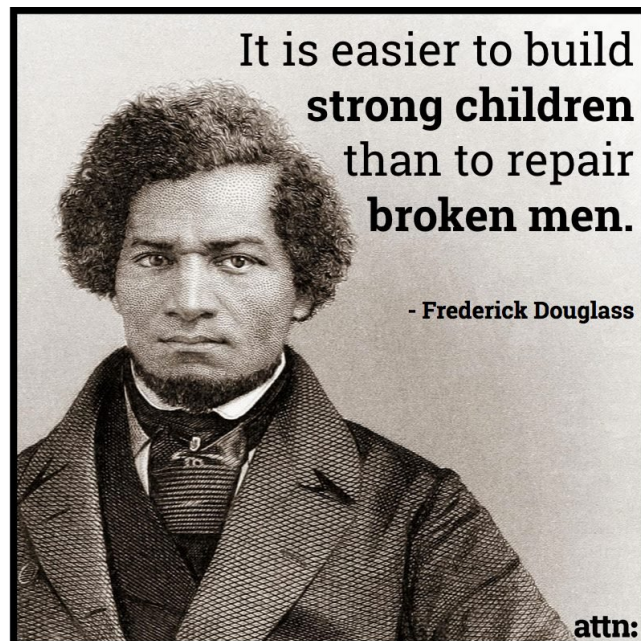
TRUTH: Most parents know that parenting is important, but we often treat parenting with less intentionality than other roles in life

THE PROBLEMS OF PARENTING

- Helicopter Parenting - overprotective, hovering
- Permaparenting - not teaching your kids how to grow up and be responsible, relying on parents indefinitely
- Snowplow Parenting - create easy pathway for kids, typically through privilege (“affluenza”)
- Spanking Freakout Movement
- The Love Affair with Timeouts - they are not the savior of parenting

There are rules for parenting, but we tend to make up our own based on how we were raised...

- Felicity Huffman tweet - make your own rules



The Goal of Parenting Young Children

- The goal of parenting younger kids is more behavioral and preparational for parenting your kids as they grow through teenage years. **If you don't start well, it will be very difficult to parent well later on.**
- **Jordan Peterson** says the goal of parenting younger kids is to make your child acceptable to others. It's to be socially desirable by age 4 so others (other kids as well as adults) want them around. This is foundational to all other parenting. (via)
- For our purposes, the goal of parenting younger kids is to get them in the right place for the gospel and for the difficulty coming as they grow older.

I believe parenting can and should be very different than what many of you have experienced, how you were raised, what you have probably been taught, what your friends and neighbors do. I think a few simple changes, that take some real work and commitment, can revolutionize your parenting.

THE BIBLICAL STORY AND YOUR FAMILY

- Genesis 1

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man⁸ in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**”

Dominion

Be Fruitful and Multiply

Sinfulness/Brokenness



- Deuteronomy 6:1-9

“Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, 2 that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Teach Along the Way

- Psalm 127:3-5

3 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
the fruit of the womb a reward.

4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
are the children of one's youth.

5 Blessed is the man
who fills his quiver with them!
He shall not be put to shame
when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Be fruitful and multiply. Have kids. Have more kids. Exercise
dominion.

Speak of kids as a blessing. Speak to others about how your kids
as a blessing. Tell your kids they are a blessing.

Stop the never-ending joke about how much your kids
are wrecking your life. I do it from time to time, but the people I
use it around know it's a joke. Too many nowadays aren't
joking...including Christians.

From now on, actually act and talk like children are a
blessing. They are!

- Proverbs

Proverbs 1:8-9

8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction,
and forsake not your mother's teaching,
9 for they are a graceful garland for your head
and pendants for your neck.

Proverbs 22:6

6 Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 29:15

15 The rod and reproof give wisdom,
but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

Proverbs 29:17

17 Discipline your son, and he will give you rest;
he will give delight to your heart.

- Epistles

Ephesians 6:1-4

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment
with a promise),
3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the
land.”
4 **Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring
them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.**

PREPARATIONAL PARENTING

1. IMMEDIATE OBEDIENCE

- You are the parent, they are the child, you know better than them, you say and they obey
- NEVER counting to 3 (delayed obedience is disobedience)
- Worst case scenario: If you don't do this, they run in the street and ignore your "stop!"
- Typical scenario: You have a bunch of self-guided tyrants who make your life and the lives of those around you miserable.
- Do this right and your sense of peace and joy in parenting will multiply

2. RESPECTFUL DISAGREEMENT

- Sometimes...you are wrong
- Tool: Give them an opportunity to appeal
- We actually taught them the word "appeal" — "Dad, can I appeal?"

3. RESPECTFUL INTERRUPTION

- Never "Daddy, daddy!" Not allowed to interrupt adults talking with
- Tool: Hand on arm until you give them permission to interrupt
- This FIXES SO MUCH for your kids (in public and around friends, families, and churches)

4. PRE-GAME/POST-GAME

- Pre-Game: Prepare them for what's coming and expectations

- Post-Game: 5 minute warning — You give them time to continue playing while knowing that a transition is coming. Keeps them from having meltdowns and helps them to be obedient.
- I still do this with my 16 and 18 year olds just because it makes everything work smoother

5. DISCIPLINE

**Discipline is what makes the rest of it work*

- Never Discipline with Anger
 - Be self-controlled
 - Realize the consequences of bad discipline
 - Never get satisfaction from discipline.
- Always Be Disciplining (ABD)
 - You don't get breaks from being a disciplinarian
 - Doesn't mean "spanking" necessarily, but correction
- Wisdom in Discipline
 - Be clear (with expectations and consequences)
 - Be consistent

**Discipline well and in just a few weeks you will start to gain your own freedom and find real happiness in parenting where you thought it was impossible.*

A FEW MORE THINGS...

- **God Loves Your Kids More Than You**

- God is bigger, better, faster, stronger
- God sends His Son for us and for them

- **Your marriage is more important than your parenting**

- You start a family by getting married. You don't "start a family" by having kids.
- Your marriage outlasts your parenting...by a long shot. You have a limited window of time to be a parent, but, Lord-willing, your marriage lasts a lifetime.
- Because of this, once you have kids they are NOT the center of the family. The marriage remains the center.
- The best parent is the best spouse. Tell your kids that regular date nights make for the BEST moms and dads.

- **Let Boys Be Boys, and Girls Be Girls**

Gender play

Gender Roles

- Masculinity/Femininity
 - Boys protect girls, boys take risks, boys protect the weak
- **Your Kid Isn't Shy...They Have Been Taught They Can Disobey, Be Unfriendly, Be In Control.** Don't use "shy" as an excuse for their unwillingness to obey.