

# PARENTING BY THE BOOK

## LAW

### 1. REVIEW: GRACE

- A. Ephesians 2:8-10 (NASB) For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift (GRACE IS A GIFT... BUT IT MUST BE OPENED) of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

#### 1. GOD DOESN'T ALWAYS CALL THE EQUIPPED... BUT HE ALWAYS EQUIPS THE CALLED... IF WE ASK HIM, AND ALLOW HIM TO DO SO.

### B. GOD DOES NOT CALL US TO BE PARENTS BECAUSE WE ARE ABLE.

#### 1. PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE WHO WERE NOT ABLE....

- a. Noah was NOT able.
- b. Abraham was NOT able.
- c. Moses was NOT able.
- d. Gideon was NOT able.
- e. David was NOT able.
- f. The disciples were NOT able,
- g. AND NEITHER ARE WE!
- h. ABLE PEOPLE JUST DO NOT EXIST... AND THEY CERTAINLY DO NOT EXIST AS PARENTS!

#### 2. God did NOT create human beings to be INDEPENDENTLY ABLE... HE DESIGNED US TO BE DEPENDANT... ON HIM!

#### 3. HERE IS THE SINGLE REDEPTIVE REALITY THAT MAKES PARENTING POSSIBLE: GOD IN US!

#### 4. INSTEAD OF APPROACHING OUR CHILDREN with SELF-RIGHTEOUS ANGER, WE SHOULD MOVE TOWARD THEM AS A SINNER IN NEED OF GRACE NEEDING TO CONFRONT A SINNER IN NEED OF GRACE.

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C. **GOD'S PLAN: IS TO MAKE HIS INVISIBLE GRACE VISIBLE TO OUR CHILDREN BY SENDING PARENTS OF GRACE TO GIVE GRACE TO CHILDREN WHO DESPERATELY NEED GRACE.**

1. AND... PARENTS WHO KNOW THEY NEED GRACE TEND TO WANT TO GIVE GRACE TO THEIR CHILDREN WHO ARE IN NEED OF GRACE... JUST LIKE THEM.

### 2. **LAW**

A. **PRINCIPLE: OUR CHILDREN NEED GOD'S LAW, BUT WE CANNOT EXPECT THE LAW TO DO WHAT ONLY GRACE CAN ACCOMPLISH.**

B. AS PARENTS WE OFTEN GET SO DISHEARTENED BECAUSE WE THINK WE HAVE...

1. DONE EXACTLY AS GOD CALLED US TO DO.

2. FAITHFULLY EXERCISED OUR AUTHORITY.

3. MADE THE RULES CLEAR AND THE THREAT OF PUNISHMENT OBVIOUS.

4. FOLLOWED THROUGH AGAIN AND AGAIN.

5. NOT COMPROMISED, NO MATTER WHERE WE WERE AND NO MATTER WHAT THE SITUATION WAS.

6. TOLD OUR CHILDREN AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT WE DO WHAT WE DO AS PARENTS BECAUSE IT IS WHAT GOD EXPECTS US TO DO.

C. **DISCUSS: SITUATIONS WHERE WHAT YOU DID AS A PARENT(S) SEEMED RIGHT AT THE TIME... BUT DID NOT WORK.**

D. As a PARENT we know that it is OUR JOB to help FORM CHARACTER (OBEDIENCE, RESPECT, HONESTY, WILLINGNESS, ETC.) in our CHILDREN.

1. So as a PARENT, we will RELY on SOMETHING TO CREATE CHANGE IN OUR CHILDREN.

2. There is some TOOL that we will USE in the BELIEF that IT HAS THE POWER TO CHANGE YOUR CHILD.

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- a. Because we have **CONFIDENCE IN THAT TOOL**, we will **USE IT AGAIN AND AGAIN**, in **SITUATION AFTER SITUATION** and with **CHILD AFTER CHILD**.
  - b. The **CHANGE TOOL** that we have placed your **CONFIDENCE IN** will **NOT ONLY** be **THE TOOL THAT WE REACH FOR WHEN CHANGE IS INDICATED**, **BUT** it will also be the **LENS WE WILL LOOK THROUGH** to **ASSESS SITUATIONS** and to **EVALUATE OUR CHILDREN**.
- E. **DISCUSS: THE PRIMARY CHANGE TOOL THAT YOU ARE RELYING ON TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE IN YOUR CHILDREN.**
1. Could it be that our **PRIMARY TOOL OF CHANGE DOES NOT HAVE THE POWER TO DO** what we are **ASKING IT TO DO**?
  2. Could it be that the **EVIDENCE** is right in front of us, **BUT** we don't see it?
  3. Could it be that there is a new, a **BETTER WAY** that we **BELIEVE IN**, **BUT** that **HAS NOT INFLUENCED OUR PARENTING**?
- F. **FACT: MILLIONS OF WELL MEANING CRISTIAN PARENTS ARE EXPECTING THE LAW TO DO IN THE LIVES OF THEIR CHILDREN WHAT ONLY THE POWERFUL GRACE OF GOD CAN ACCOMPLISH.**
1. **IF RULES AND REGULATIONS** had the **POWER TO CHANGE THE HEARTS AND LIVES** of our **CHILDREN...**
    - a. **JESUS WOULD HAVE NEVER NEEDED TO COME!**
    - b. **WHAT WE ASSIGN THE POWER OF CHANGE TO WILL SHAPE THE WAY WE PARENT OUR CHILDREN.**
  2. **AND IT IS WHAT ENDS UP FORMING WHO THEY ARE WHEN THEY LEAVE OUR HOME.**
- G. **LAW and GRACE**

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1. **Romans 7:7 (NASB)** What shall we say then? Is the **Law** sin? May it never be! On the contrary, **I would not have come to know sin except through the Law**; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."
2. Our **CHILDREN** are **BORN WITH** a **DESPERATE NEED FOR GOD'S LAW**.
  - a. **BECAUSE** they come into the world as **FOOLS, NOT KNOWING...**
    - 1) What is **TRUE** or what is **FALSE**,
    - 2) What is **GOOD** or what is **BAD**,
    - 3) What is **RIGHT** or what is **WRONG**.
3. They **NEED** the **WISDOM** that **ONLY GOD'S LAW CAN GIVE**.
4. **CHILDREN** were **NOT MADE TO BE SELF-GOVERNING...**
  - a. They **NEED** to be given **TRACKS** to run on and **BOUNDARIES** to stay inside of.
  - b. **GOD** gave us **HIS LAW** so that our **BEHAVIOR** would be **GUIDED** by a **CLEAR KNOWLEDGE OF** what is **RIGHT AND WRONG**.
5. **OUR CHILDREN NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE LAW'S WEAKNESS**
  - a. OUR CHILDREN **NEED** THE **LAW OF GOD IN THEIR LIVES...**
  - b. **BUT** it is very **DANGEROUS** as parents to daily **ASK THE LAW TO DO WHAT ONLY GRACE CAN ACCOMPLISH**.
  - c. **MAJOR PROBLEM: FOR MANY PARENTS OUR PARENTING IS BASICALLY A BODY OF RULES FOLLOWED BY THREATS OF PUNISHMENT**.
6. **NOTE:** Jesus came because **WHILE THE LAW WAS GOOD, IT DEFINITELY WAS NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO SOLVE THE GREAT HUMAN DILEMMA OF SIN**.
  - a. **REMEMBER**, the **GREATEST DANGER TO OUR CHILDREN** is **NOT THE EVIL OUTSIDE THEM... IT IS THE SIN INSIDE THEM THAT IS THE GREATEST THREAT TO THEIR WELL-BEING**.

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- b. **THAT IS WHY MITIGATING OUR CHILD'S BEHAVIOR WITH RULES AND THREATS OF PUNISHMENT ALONE WILL NOT CHANGE THEIR SIN NATURE!!!**
7. This is what EVERY PARENT OF EVERY CHILD NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND:
- a. **YES... CHILDREN NEED RULES AND THEY NEED FAITHFUL CORRECTION... BUT THAT SIMPLY IS NOT ENOUGH!**
  - b. **THE LAW DOES A VERY GOOD JOB OF EXPOSING OUR CHILD'S SIN... BUT IT HAS NO POWER WHATSOEVER TO DELIVER OUR CHILD FROM SIN.**
    - 1) **ONLY GRACE CAN DO THAT!**
  - c. The LAW has NO ABILITY to CREATE THE LASTING CHANGE in your child that EVERY parent longs for.
  - d. The LAW CANNOT and WILL NOT RESCUE, REDEEM, AND RESTORE YOUR CHILD.
  - e. **SO... IF WE ARE GOING TO BE A TOOL OF CHANGE IN GOD'S HANDS IN OUR CHILDRENS LIVES... WE NEED MORE THAN GOD'S LAW IN OUR PERSONAL PARENTING TOOL BOX.**
  - f. **WE MUST BE PARENTS OF GRACE WHO GIVE GRACE TO OUR CHILDREN WHO DESPERATELY NEED GRACE!**
8. **PROBLEM: As PARENTS somehow, someday GOD'S LAW gets REPLACED by OUR LAW...**
- a. A LAW that's SADLY DRIVEN by OUR CRAVING for AFFIRMATION, CONTROL, PEACE, SUCCESS, and REPUTATION.
  - b. So we often make SELFISH, IMPATIENT, and ANGRY DEMANDS on our children.
  - c. The FACT IS that our children WERE NOT CREATED and given to us FOR OUR SAKE,

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1) BUT... FOR GOD'S SAKE AND FOR THEIR GOOD.

2) So we often get ANGRY at our kids, NOT because they're BREAKING GOD'S LAW... BUT because they're in the way of OUR LAW (something that WE want).

d. The GOOD NEWS is that there really is a new and BETTER WAY for US and for OUR CHILDREN... G R A C E!

e. DISCUSS: WHAT CHANGED ME.

1) BIRTH TO 18

i. FEAR

2) 19 TO 33

i. REBELLION

3) 33 TO THE PRESENT

i. THE GRACE OF GOD

9. As PARENTS, we are NOT CALLED to just ENFORCE GOD'S LAW in the lives of our CHILDREN, BUT also to CONSTANTLY EXHIBIT and TEACH GOD'S GRACE to them as well.

a. REMEMBER... WE NEED GOD'S GRACE JUST AS MUCH AS OUR CHILDREN DO!

H. Remember, it's the SIN INSIDE OUR CHILDREN that messes everything up.

1. IT'S SIN... that makes your children resist your guidance and authority.

2. IT'S SIN that causes children to constantly be in conflict with their siblings.

3. IT'S SIN that gets in the way of your child's learning in school.

4. It's sin that causes children to be attracted to what is hurtful or destructive.

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5. **IT'S SIN** that causes your children to be entitled, demanding, materialistic, and complaining.
6. **IT'S SIN** that causes your children to act as if they are the center of the universe and that life should do their bidding.
7. **IT'S SIN** that causes children to say hurtful things to their parents, siblings, and peers.
8. **IT'S SIN** that makes parenting difficult, demanding, and exhausting.
  - a. The law has no ability to deliver your children from this mess—the very mess that you have to deal with every day as a parent.
  - b. So **OUR CHILDREN CAME INTO THE WORLD IN DESPERATE NEED OF GOD'S RESCUING, FORGIVING, TRANSFORMING, AND DELIVERING GRACE.**
  - c. You could **ARGUE** that it's **GOD'S GRACE** that is the **ONLY HOPE** for **PARENTS** and **CHILDREN** alike.
9. **PARENTS NEED TO TEACH THE GOSPEL OF GOD'S GRACE NOT ONLY BY WHAT WE SAY, BUT IN HOW WE LIVE.**
  - a. "You are writing a Gospel,  
A chapter each day,  
By deeds that you do,  
By words that you say.  
  
Your children read the words that you write,  
Whether faithless or true;  
**Say, what is the Gospel**  
**According to you?"**

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- b. IT'S TIME FOR US TO SURRENDER OUR HEARTS TO GOD'S GRACE AND TO LEAD THE HEARTS OF OUR CHILDREN TO TRUST IN HIS GRACE.

### 10. TOO OFTEN WE PRESENT GOD AN IRRITABLE, IMPATIENT, JUDGMENTAL, LOUD, AND ACCUSATORY FATHER.

#### a. WE SAY THINGS LIKE...

- 1) I can't believe that you would do such a thing!
- 2) I do and do for you, and this is the thanks I get!
- 3) You don't want to know what's going to happen if I have to come to your room one more time!
- 4) You're going to be grounded forever!

#### b. NO CHILD hears that kind of TALK and **says to THEMSELVES...**

- 1) WHAT A **WISE AND LOVING PARENT!**
- 2) I KNOW I CAN **SHARE MY HEART WITH THIS PERSON!**
- 3) I JUST WISH THEY WOULD **SAY MORE OF THESE THINGS TO ME!**
- 4) I AM **SO THANKFUL THAT THIS PERSON IS MY PARENT!**
- 5) I THINK THAT I'M **BEGINNING TO SEE MY BLACK HEART!**

#### c. NO ONE, adult or child, has ever had someone get up into their face and **YELL** at them and **HAS WALKED AWAY FEELING HELPED BY IT.**

### 11. IF GOD'S PLAN IS TO MAKE HIS INVISIBLE GRACE VISIBLE BY SENDING PARENTS OF GRACE TO GIVE GRACE TO CHILDREN WHO DESPERATELY NEED GRACE...

#### a. THEN WE ARE CALLED NOT JUST TO PREACH ABOUT GRACE... BUT TO LIVE IT AND MODEL IT FOR OUR CHILDREN EVERY DAY.

#### I. HOW?

##### 1. COME BACK NEXT WEEK!!!