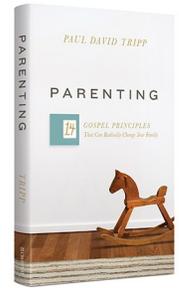


Chapter 2 GRACE

Sunday, September 24, 2017

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.

“PARENTING: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family”
by Paul David Tripp



OPENING QUESTIONS:

- Recall Names and Ages of your children
- What is one thing you remember from last week? .

OUR THOUGHTS ON THIS CHAPTER

If you understand this chapter, it will make a huge difference in ALL of your relationships. Honestly, understanding this chapter makes an eternal difference in your life. It's the Gospel at its core - and it has huge practical implications for you as a parent.

The Problem

What particular problem do many moms and dads carry into their parenting that they don't even know about?

They leave God's grace behind. They don't know about God's grace and/or they try to do it all themselves.

“What is this silent but deadly problem that afflicts so many parents?” (p.33)

“Too many Christian parents have a great big, trouble causing gap in their understanding, celebration of, and reliance upon God's grace.” (.34)



“There is nothing more important to consistent, faithful, patient, loving, and effective parenting than to understand what God has given you in the grace of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.”
(p.34)

Review from Previous Week

This is a principal book, not a practical book

Ownership Parenting
vs.
Ambassadorial Parenting

Problems of Parenting p.17-20
Identity, Work, Success, Reputation

Chapter 1 **CALLING** *Principle: Nothing is more important in your life than being one of God's tools to form a human soul.*

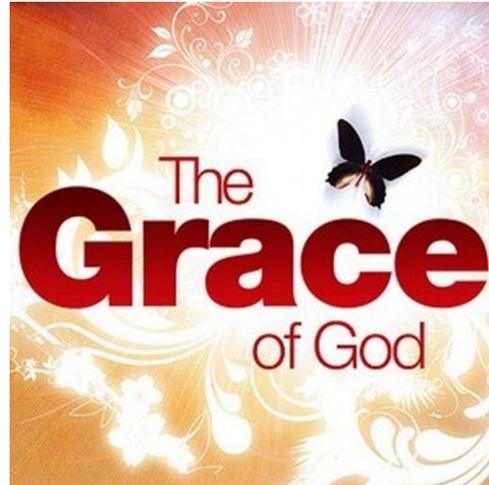
Many of today's parents have the wrong values. (25-27)

What does God value? PARENTS!
What is our calling? Deut. 6:4-9 & 6:20-23?

You could argue that the chief reason God put parents in children's lives is so that they would know Him." (30)

Parenting: 14 Gospel principles that can radically change your family.

"Maybe you're thinking right now, 'Paul, I don't need more theology; I need practical help. I believe everything the Bible has to say, but it doesn't seem to have helped my parenting!' I would ask you to open your heart and be patient with me as I explain, because this may be the most important chapter for you in this book. Understanding God's grace will change you, and as it changes you, it will change the way you relate to and parent your children." (p.34)



God's PRESENT Grace

Many understand past grace and future grace, but they do not understand present grace. What is present Grace? It is what GOD is doing through you right this very minute. How HE is accomplishing what He wants done in the life of your children through you right now. (Like participating in this very parenting class. That's God's present grace.) p.34

God calls those who *are not* able. (p.35)

Why does God do it this way? **So that in our search for help, we find The Helper, [Him]**

"Why would a God of perfect wisdom ask inadequate people to do such an important job [like parenting]? The answer is so important to grasp. God calls unable people to do important things because ultimately what He's working on is not your immediate success, but that you would come to know Him, to love Him, to rest in His grace, and to live for His glory." (p.35)



"He calls you to do the impossible so that in your search for help, you would find more than help, you would find Him." (p.36)

"He [God] knows that parents who admit they are inadequate and run to God make the best parents. You see, He doesn't ask you to be able; He asks you to be willing." (p.36)

Why does God (and children) not desire "able" parents?

"'Able' parents tend to be proud and self-assured parents. Because they are proud of their ability, they act too quickly and with too much self-confidence, and because they do, they lack patience and understanding." (p.36)

"'Able' parents, who pride themselves in Keeping the law, tend to give their children more law than grace and are quicker to judge than to understand." (p.36)

Parenting: 14 Gospel principles that can radically change your family.

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What do you think about this statement?

"If you walk down the hallway mad because your children need correction again, you're mad because at the moment they need what every human being constantly needs: a parent's care. But if you walk down that hallway confessing your need of the Father's care, it is more likely that you will embrace the need of your children for the same care, and you'll be tender as you give it." (p.37)

This is huge—God in you!

"Here is the single redemptive reality, right here, right now, that makes parenting possible: God in you! You read it right. The apostle Paul says that you don't really understand who you are and what you've been given until you understand this amazing thing; that God knew our calling would be so huge and our weakness so deep that the only thing that would help us was Himself. So in an act of incredible grace, He has unbuttoned us and gotten inside of us." (p.38)

"Now think about this as a parent. This God who has the ability to do things that are way beyond our ability to conceive, who has perfect wisdom and unlimited strength, right now, lives inside of you." (p.38)

God's Grace Works in Us (pp.38-39) (40-43)

- God helps us see ourselves accurately
- God's grace let's us be real
- God's grace rescues you from you
- God's grace grows and changes you as a parent
- God's grace works to make your heart tender
- God's grace liberates you from the prison of regret.

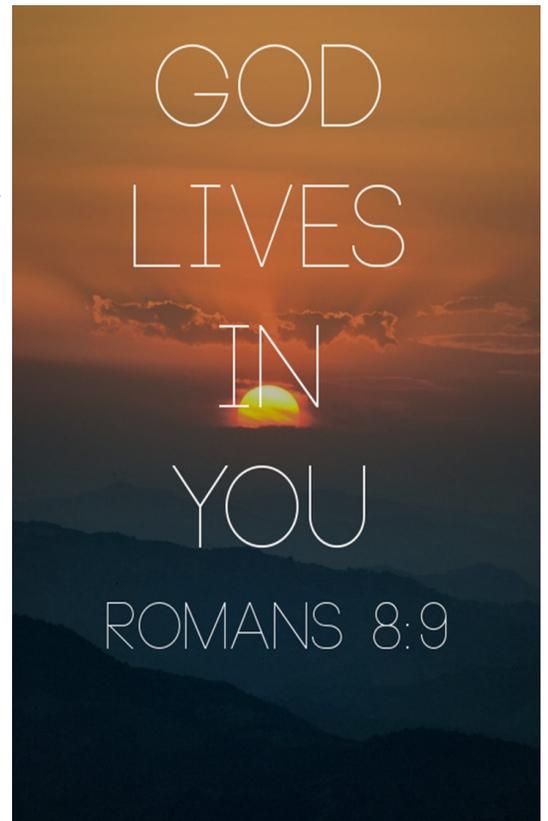
"My children don't cause me to do and say what I do and say. "No, the cause of my actions is found inside my own heart. My children are simply the occasion where my heart reveals itself in words and actions." (p.40-41)

God empowers us

"God never calls us to a task without giving us what we need to do it" (p.37)

"There is only one hero in the Bible; every other character is flawed in some way. God is the hero of every story in the Bible." (p.37)

"What does this have to do with parenting? Everything!" (p.37)



BOWL ILLUSTRATION:
 Our biggest problem is US!
 What comes out of the bowl? US!

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"If you blame your children for your bad attitudes, actions, and words, not only will you embitter them, but in blaming them, you will fail to reach out for the help that is yours in the rescuing forgiving, and transforming grace of Jesus. And because you shift the blame, you will fail to grow as a parent and you will repeat the same patterns over and over again. When you are willing to confess that you're the biggest problem in your parenting, you are on the road to very good things in you and in your work with your kids." (p.41)



MORE GREAT QUOTES

"The things you do or say always tell you more about yourself than whoever you're speaking to." (p.42)

"Hard-hearted parents think that they are right and okay and because they do, they don't feel the need to change and grow." (p.42)



"God has called you to be a parent. How does He give you what you need for this calling? He gives you what you need by giving you *Himself*, and giving you Himself, He showers His amazing, forgiveness, rescuing transforming, empowering, and wisdom-giving grace down on you." (p.43)

SANCTIFICATION

"Because you and I always do our parenting between the 'already' of our conversion and the 'not yet' of our final destination, we parent in the middle of our own sanctification. Remember the gospel, although the power of sin has been broken in the beautiful justifying mercies of Jesus Christ, the presence of sin still remains with us. So God's present zeal is to progressively deliver us from the remaining hold that sin has on us. This means that He will use the pressures, opportunities, hassles, burdens, griefs, temptations, and joys to grow and change us." (p.41)



ACTION ITEMS FOR YOU THIS WEEK

Getting to the Heart of your Children

1. Ask your children, "What do you think is the most important thing to me?" *(Yes, you are asking your children to identify what they think is most important to you).*
2. Ask your children if they feel safe to share anything with you?
3. Ask your children, "Is there anything you feel I should ask you for for-