
Kingdom Parenting

Imperfect Parents training Imperfect Children to the glory of a Perfect King

Mark & Michelle Spansel
Leroy Community Chapel

What's Kingdom Parenting?

In a world where kids are often discarded as unimportant we need the Gospel of the King to teach us to rightly love, care for, and train the little ones of our world. God's heart is to be a father to the fatherless and to provide for the orphaned child in distress, ours must be nothing less.

In a world where kids are often worshipped and families center on the activities and desires of their children, we need the Gospel of the King to teach us the right place of parents discipling the young ones under their leadership.

In the church where parenting can so easily become a competition and one's identity be found in the behavior of their kids, good or bad, we need the Gospel to set us free from the myth of perfect parents. We need to understand and apply the Gospel of grace to the real life situations of family life and delight of the provision of Jesus for moms and dads.

In the church where we identify kids as Christians if they say kind things, attend church activities, and generally don't embarrass their parents, we need the Gospel to set us free from the goal of building perfect children. We have done wrong in thinking good kids are the goal. We need to help our children come face to face with their sin and bad-ness so they might exalt in the work of Jesus as their Redeemer and Rescuer.

Raising kids is a humbling thing ... and that is good. The proud, confident parent lives by performance and not the Gospel. The purposeless, confused parent lives in selfishness and not the Gospel. In no activity is the grace of God more profoundly needed than in shepherding the hearts of our kids in the way of the Lord. This is where we start ... needy parents, sinful kids, a great God!

Raising kids should also be one of the most joy-filled expressions of worship we get to be a part of in life. For out of humility, desperation, and confusion comes laughter and joy as the expectations of perfection fall by the wayside and we delight in the blessing of God building our home.

This is Kingdom Parenting, and here are the questions we need to ask –

- *What Makes Christian Parenting Christian?*
- *What Changes our Kids Hearts, Good Parents or Grace?*
- *What is the Longing of Every Child's Heart?*
- *How Do I Get My Kids to Obey?*
- *How Do I Build a Spiritual Champion?*

So let's seek God together in prayer ... then get started and try to answer these questions!

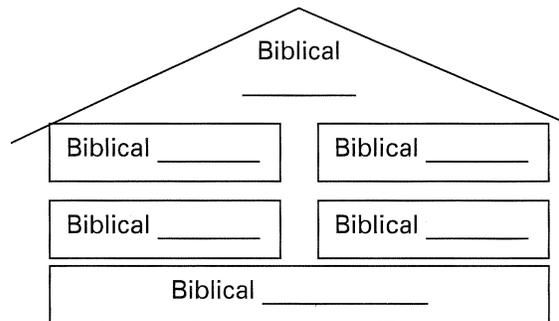
What Makes Christian Parenting Christian?

- Beware of the danger of “moral overlap” between _____ and _____.

Our Working Definition of Parenting:

“Acting as stewards, we shepherd the hearts of our children in the Gospel, to be cultural change agents, ready to be released for courageous service in the Kingdom.”

Our Teaching Framework: Building a House (Psalm 127)




Biblical Principle

[1 Samuel 2:12-35]

The sons of Eli's Issues:

1 –

2 –

3 –

4 –

My Notes:

Eli's Issues:

1 –

2 –

3 –

4 –

Eli's sons vs. Samuel

Eli vs. Hannah


Biblical Principle

*Christian parents are to _____
_____ above _____
_____.*

My Notes:

Proverbs 29:23
“A man’s pride will bring
him low, But a humble spirit
will obtain honor.”



Biblical Practices

#1 *Your* _____

- The “Law of the Lid”

True:

False:

- The best parent is the _____
_____, one who _____ in
_____ with God.

- Before talking about the kids ... talk about your own
_____.

#2 *Your* _____

- _____ comes first, _____ comes
second, _____ comes third.

My Notes:

Ephesians 5:22 – 6:9

-
- Essential issues to model:

1 –

2 –

3 –

- Before talking about the kids ... talk about your _____.

#3 *Your* _____

- Teaching a Christian World View

- Modeling _____

1 –

2 –

3 –

- Modeling _____

1 – _____ teaching moments

2 – _____ teaching moments

My Notes:

• You are the _____
_____ in their lives.

• Before talking about the kids ... talk about your
_____ .

#4 *The Goal*

• NOT:

1 – _____ children with
_____ compliance

2 – _____ for you to

3 – Your _____

• IS:

1 – Stewards

2 – Shepherd the hearts of our children in the Gospel

3 – Cultural change agents

4 – Ready to be released for courageous service in the Kingdom

• Don't lose sight of the _____ !

My Notes:

“Acting as stewards, we shepherd the hearts of our children in the Gospel, to be cultural change agents, ready to be released for courageous service in the Kingdom.”

What Changes our Kids Hearts ... Good Parents or Grace?

My Notes:

Review:

Parenting Definition: *Acting as stewards, we shepherd the hearts of our children in the Gospel, to be cultural change agents, ready to be released for courageous service in the Kingdom.*

Principle #1: *Christian parents are to honor God above their children.*

Our Framework: *Biblical principles inform Biblical practices which lead to Biblical witness.*



Biblical Principle

[Jeremiah 17:5-10; Romans 5:1-2, 8; 6:17-18; Matthew 22:35-40]

1 – The Condition of the _____

2 – The Solution for our _____

3 – The _____ that
_____ God



Biblical Principle

Only the _____ of Christ can
_____ wicked hearts into
_____ hearts, disobedient
hearts into _____ hearts.



Biblical Practices

My Notes:

#1 *Call* _____ *by its* _____

- Childishness vs. _____
- Not just “bad habits” or “being a kid” ... it’s _____
 - 1 –
 - 2 –
 - 3 –
- Saying “_____” vs. Asking for forgiveness
 - Help them understand what came out of their heart

#2 *Teach them about* _____

- A freestanding _____
 - Their sin is no one else’s fault

-
- Not _____ choices

1 – Allow them to have choices in _____

2 – Let them feel the natural consequences of their own _____ choices

- Good _____

#3 *Shape their heart around their*

- An obedient heart looks _____ in every child

- _____ will look different

- Affirming who _____ is making them

My Notes:

#4 *Good parents rely on* _____

- _____ parents vs.
_____ parents

1 – Being in control without being _____

2 – Majoring on _____ and minoring on

3 – Behavior that doesn't warrant discipline, but still
warrants _____

- Let them see your need for _____ and His

- In _____ their questions

1 – Discern whether it's curious or _____

2 – Answering questions with _____

“Only the work of Christ can change wicked hearts into worshipping hearts, disobedient hearts into obedient hearts.”

My Notes:

Hebrews 4:16
“Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

“Acting as stewards, we shepherd the hearts of our children in the Gospel, to be cultural change agents, ready to be released for courageous service in the Kingdom.”

What is the Longing of Every Child's Heart?

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Biblical Principle

[1 John 4:7 – 5:4]

- 1 – God is _____

- 2 – Love is _____ God

- 3 – God is the _____
_____ of love

- 4 – Our love _____ our

- 5 – Love produces joyful _____
and relational _____



Biblical Principle

“Learning to give love and _____ love is the basis for _____ development with _____ and with man. An environment of love is the incubator of God-honoring _____.”



Biblical Practices

#1 Love creates a _____

- Acceptance

1 – Not based on _____

2 – Not creating _____ between siblings

3 – In confronting sin, _____ really is the issue

4 – Real security affirms the _____, not just the external _____

5 – Do not tolerate _____

- Allow _____ for _____

My Notes:

• Self-Esteem or _____ their worth?

1 – Self-Esteem makes _____ center

2 – They are of great worth because of _____ them

• Communication

1 – Openness

2 – Not _____

#2 *Love Pursues*

• _____ pursuit

• _____ pursuit

• _____ pursuit

My Notes:

Romans 12:9
“Let love be without
hypocrisy. Abhor what is
evil; cling to what is good.”

#3 *Your love is an _____ of
God's love*

- Creating _____
- Keeping your _____
- You're not a _____ to me
- My _____, Your _____

#4 *Love means affection and _____
matter*

- _____
- _____

"Learning to give love and accept love is the basis for relational development with God and with man. An environment of love is the incubator of God-honoring families."

My Notes:

"Acting as stewards, we shepherd the hearts of our children in the Gospel, to be cultural change agents, ready to be released for courageous service in the Kingdom."

How Do I Get My Kid to Obey?

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Principle #2: *Only the work of Christ can change wicked hearts into worshipping hearts, disobedient hearts into obedient hearts*

Principle #3: *Learning to give love and accept love is the basis for relational development with God and with man. An environment of love is the incubator of God-honoring families.*

Our Framework: *Biblical principles inform Biblical practices which lead to Biblical witness.*



Biblical Principle

- 1 – There is such a thing as _____
_____ [Psalm 66:3; 81:15]

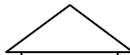
- 2 – _____ obedience as our
example [Romans 5:19; Hebrews 5:8]

- 3 – No such thing as salvation that doesn't
produce _____ [Romans 1:5;
6:16; 15:18]

- 4 – Flows out of _____, producing
_____ [Romans 16:19; 2 Corinthians
7:15; Hebrews 13:17]

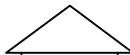
5 – Disobedience requires _____ [Psalm 81:11; Romans 2:8; 2 Corinthians 10:6; John 3:36]

6 – Directed at the _____ of _____ [Acts 5:29; 2 Samuel 15:22; Ephesians 6]



Biblical Principle

“A heart of obedience is the _____ of all who know God. It needs no _____ but the joy it produces, and no _____ other than the Word of God.”



Biblical Practices

#1 Expect _____
Obedience

• Don't be the _____ parent

1 – Your _____ must mean something

2 – Immediate

3 – Expect and _____ it

My Notes:

Psalm 81:15
“Those who hate the Lord would pretend obedience to Him, And their time of punishment would be forever.”

-
- Don't view _____ or completion as the goal

1 – Obedience demands _____

2 – _____ matters

- “I Don't _____”

- Obedience in _____ and _____

1 – Verbal response and no action is _____

2 – Mind, Heart, and _____

#2 *Obedience Thrives in* _____

- Make the _____ clear

- Do they know what you are calling them to?

My Notes:

- Be _____
 - 1 – A standard has to be a standard to be a standard
 - 2 – Show no _____
 - 3 – It’s uncomfortable and _____

- _____ make everyone happier
 - 1 – Schedules train _____
 - 2 – Schedules create _____
 - 3 – Schedules promote _____
 - 4 – Schedules and _____ can live together

#3 *When Obedience isn't* _____

- With a _____ spirit

- When it's just _____

My Notes:

Hebrews 12:9-10
 “Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.”

My Notes:

1 – We aren't trying to create _____ kids
but _____ kids

2 – Affirm respect and honor in obedience to the

- _____ on the inside

- Rebellion starts small

#4 Find _____ *Consequences and Rewards*

- It's not punitive ... it's _____

- Make _____ matter

1 – The power of _____

2 – Be _____

• The Moral vs. the _____

1 – Skill-based training

2 – Behavior-based training

• Logical _____

• Spanking, timeouts, and grounding

1 – Increasing with _____ hardness

2 – Learning to _____ discipline

3 – It's supposed to _____

“Learning to give love and accept love is the basis for relational development with God and with man. An environment of love is the incubator of God-honoring families.”

My Notes:

“Acting as stewards, we shepherd the hearts of our children in the Gospel, to be cultural change agents, ready to be released for courageous service in the Kingdom.”

How Do I Build a Spiritual Champion?

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Principle #3: *Learning to give love and accept love is the basis for relational development with God and with man. An environment of love is the incubator of God-honoring families.*

Review Principle #4 - *A heart of obedience is the expectation of all who know God. It needs no coercion but the joy it produces, and no foundation other than the Word of God.*

Our Framework: *Biblical principles inform Biblical practices which lead to Biblical witness.*

Biblical Principle

1 – Your life is not your _____ [1
Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 6:6-20; Acts 20:24]

2 – Life is _____ others [Philippians
2:3-4; Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 4:11-13]

3 – Christ must be our greatest _____
[Psalm 73:25-26; Psalm 16:11]

4 – This is not our _____ [Philippians
3:20; Colossians 3:1-3]

5 – We've been given _____ to use our
_____ [Acts 17:24-25; 1 Corinthians 4:7; 1
Peter 4:11]



Biblical Principle

*"We teach and model a life that puts _____
above self, which resists the _____ of
this world, which finds one's _____
in Christ alone, and by grace we use our _____
to serve the cause of Christ in the world."*



Biblical Practices

#1 Give _____ to Produce

• Dependence on _____ is _____
in Christ.

• Learning independence while resisting _____.

1 – Break their will or break their spirit?

2 – Dependence on god produces the right kind of

My Notes:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20
"Or do you not know that
your body is a temple of the
Holy Spirit who is in you,
whom you have from God,
and that you are not your
own? For you have been
bought with a price:
therefore glorify God in
your body."

-
- Develop _____ that make sense.

1 – Too much freedom: _____

2 – Too little freedom: _____

3 – Put them in the _____

- Don't let your _____ prevent their freedom.

#2 *Make* _____ *and* _____
Inseparable

- Being _____ is putting
_____ first.

- Selflessness shows _____.

- From self-_____ to self-_____ to self-_____.

My Notes:

#3 Engage _____ as Central

My Notes:

• It's not about _____.

• Love the _____ ... _____.

1 –

2 –

3 –

4 –

• Love your _____ as yourself ...
_____.

- Don't teach them isolation

• Love the _____ ... _____.

1 – Explain pain and suffering

2 – Compassion in _____

#4 Resist this _____ with all your

- I'm a _____ first.
- _____ is an enemy to be fought.
 - 1 – Limit intake of _____ activities
 - 2 – Build _____ activities
- Give them God's _____.

“We teach and model a life that puts others above self, which resists the materialism of this world, which finds one’s pleasure in Christ alone, and by grace we use our gifts to serve the cause of Christ in the world.”

My Notes:

“Acting as stewards, we shepherd the hearts of our children in the Gospel, to be cultural change agents, ready to be released for courageous service in the Kingdom.”

Addendum on Discipline

1 – There is a difference between *Cultural Spanking* and *Biblical Chastisement*

“Chastisement means to inflict pain with controlled force on an individual to amend an inner attitude.”

- ◆ Deuteronomy 8:5
- ◆ Hebrews 12:6-7
- ◆ Proverbs 22:13-15; 29:15

- Cultural Spanking ... is something parents do to a child.
- Biblical Chastisement ... is something parents do for a child.

- Cultural Spanking ... is a reaction activated by frustration.
- Biblical Chastisement ... is a response activated by rebellion.

- Cultural Spanking ... is used as a punishment of last resort.
- Biblical Chastisement ... is not an act of punishment but love.

- Cultural Spanking ... attempts to change outward behavior.
- Biblical Chastisement ... is used to change inward attitudes.

- Cultural Spanking ... is used with the intent to punish behavior.
- Biblical Chastisement ... is used with the intent to amend behavior.

- Cultural Spanking ... is performed throughout a child's life.
- Biblical Chastisement ... is nearly completed by the age of five.

- Cultural Spanking ... frustrates the child.
- Biblical Chastisement ... clears a child's guilty conscience.

- Cultural Spanking ... has no long-term positive effect.
- Biblical Chastisement ... molds lifelong character.

- Cultural Spanking ... is used by most Christians.
- Biblical Chastisement ... is rarely used by anyone.

From Growing Kids God's Way written by Gary and Anne Marie Ezzo

2 – Training for first-time obedience takes most of the subjective out of spanking and guards against reactive, last resort spanking.

3 – The majority of spanking will occur between the ages of 16 months and 5 years.

4 – Where spanking can go wrong:

Parenting Resources:

[Give Them Grace: Dazzling Your Kids with the Love of Jesus](#)
By Fitzpatrick/Tchividjian

[Shepherding a Child's Heart](#)
By Tedd Tripp

[Spiritual Parenting](#)
By Charles Spurgeon

[Thought on Family Worship](#)
By James W. Alexander

[Withhold Not Correction](#)
By Bruce A. Ray

[The Godly Family](#)
By Soli Deo Gloria Publishers

[Your Child's Profession of Faith](#)
By Dennis Gunderson

[Your Family God's Way](#)
By Wayne A. Mack

[Preparation for Parenting](#)
[Preparation for the Toddler Years](#)
[Baby Wise](#)
[Growing Kids God's Way](#)
By Gary and Anne Marie Ezzo

[A Good Start](#)
By Charles Spurgeon

[Successful Christian Parenting](#)
By John MacArthur

[Bringing Up Boys](#)
By James Dobson

[Teach Your Children to Pray](#)
By Denise George

[Disciplines of a Godly Family](#)
By Kent and Barbara Hughes

[The Duties of Parents](#)
By J.C. Ryle

[Character Sketches](#)
By Institute in Basic Life Principles

[Leading Little Ones to God](#)
By Marian M. Schoolland

-
- Not hard enough or through too much clothing
 - Too much reasoning, logic, persuasion
 - Inconsistent and unclear boundaries, revolved around the convenience of the parent
 - Afraid the child will not love them

5 – The “How’s”:

- Don’t humiliate. Go to a private place. Guard their dignity.
- Communicate the clear violation of obedience. Name the issue. Gain understanding/acknowledgement.
- Remind why you spank. Tell how many swats they will get. Remove diaper/pants. Keep it personal/relational.
- Restore with words. Communicate love. Point them to Christ. Move on. Consider it closed.

Leroy Community Chapel
12920 SR 86
Leroy, Ohio 44077

440.254.4747

mspanel@leroychapel.org
michellespanel@gmail.com

Mark & Michelle Spansel 2012.