

FAMILY PORTRAITS: Parenting
Andy Deane · 4/28/2024 · Selected Scriptures

Today we'll discuss truths that kids and parents both need, and remind ourselves that Christ-followers are God's children, so these truths are for non-parents as well!

AUTHORITY

- **KIDS:** must learn that they aren't the ultimate authority in life.
 - Ephesians 6:1-3, *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—"so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."*
- **PARENTS:** must learn that they aren't the ultimate authority either.
 - Ephesians 6:4, *Fathers, do not provoke your children; instead, bring them up in the...instruction of the Lord.*
 - When I exercise my parental authority I must try to be an accurate reflection God's authority over His children.
 - Parents are under authority too (God's authority). Jesus also submitted to the Father's will as our example.
 - Avoid provoking: unreasonable expectations, inconsistent standards, favoritism, constant fault-finding, etc.

CONTROL

- **KIDS:** must learn how to make wise choices.
 - They must move from foolish to wise:
Proverbs 12:15, *The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.*
 - They must move from lost to found:
Luke 15:32, *...this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.*
- **PARENTS:** must learn that control isn't the goal, instilling character is.
 - Our aim is to raise our kids to be independent from us, but dependent on God, with support from the church.
 - We must move from 100% control to 0% control, all the while remember that God is in control.
 - Instead of control, we should aim to train towards godly character: 1 Timothy 4:8, *For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life & the life to come.*

OUTBURSTS

- **KIDS:** must learn that outbursts of sin are not the solution.
 - One important aim of parenting is we must help kids see their heart and their desperate need for rescue.
 - Jeremiah 17:9, *The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*
- **PARENTS:** must learn that outbursts of sin are an opportunity.
 - 1 Corinthians 2:10-11, *these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.*
 - Deuteronomy 29:29, *The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.*
 - Parents should try and resist: yelling, lecturing, shaming, guilt, belittling, and prioritizing the law.
 - Instead: (1) Take a breath (2) pause to thank God for revealing your child's sinful nature as an opportunity for you to help them with, while you still have influence (3) Help them slow down and process what happened.
 - Ask them these five questions:
 1. What was going on?
 2. What were you thinking and feeling as it was happening?
 3. What did you do in response?
 4. Why did you do it—what were you trying to accomplish?
 5. What was the result?

DISCIPLINE

- KIDS: must learn that bad decisions have consequences.
 - Galatians 6:7-8, *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*
- PARENTS: must learn that repentance and reconciliation are the goal.
 - More important than pain of punishment is teaching them a process toward maturity of self & reconciliation.
 - Whatever your discipline process is, it should lead toward: confession, repentance, and reconciliation.
 - Romans 2:4, *...God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance*
 - Remember the Lord's goals for us with discipline:
 - Proverbs 3:12, *...the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.*
 - Revelation 3:19, *Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.*

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- Text TRIPP to (951)425-4425 to learn more details about using these 5 questions with your kids.
 - Text PARENTING to (951)425-4425 to discover resources to grow in your parenting.