

Parenting Like God our Father

Exod 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you."

Covenant Principle #1 — Commitment

- Commitment = a relationship is *formed* and *maintained* (Deut 7:6-11)
- Parental Actions:
 1. Promise
 2. Provision (Deut 8:2-5; Mt 6:7-13, 25-34; 7:7-11)
- Blessings:
 - Mature & healthy
 - Trust & faithfulness
 - Learn about relationship in community
- Idolatry: The “stingy” <————vs————> “spoiling” parent

- *Like a Marriage Covenant, what if you wrote out a Parenting Covenant:*

- *Consider these areas of provision: food, clothing, shelter, medical/health care; discipleship & education; economics & culture (art, music, sports, recreation). Where do you want to be a better provider for the children in your life?*

Covenant Principle #2 — Love

- Love is a voluntary choice to *cherish* one's chosen and to *sacrificially* give of one self for their good
- Parental Actions:
 1. Affection
 2. Grace (Rom 5:8; 1 John 4:7-8; Ps 136)
- Blessings:
 - Intimacy
 - Belonging
 - Peace & Forgiveness
- Idolatry: The “absent” <————vs————> “helicopter” parent, as well as “permissive/appeasing” parent

- *In what ways do you connect with your kids? How would you like to better connect with them?*

- *Which end of the spectrum do you lean towards (absent/helicopter or permissive-friendly)? How so?*

- *Where or when do you struggle to experience gospel-rotted peace in your family?*

Covenant Principle #3 — Law

- Law shapes us to reflect the *nature* of our parental authorities
- Parental Actions:
 1. Teaching (Deut 7:9; 4:9-10; 6:3-9)
 2. Discipline (Heb 12)
- Blessings:
 - Learn judgment and wisdom in light of absolute truth
 - Respect and submission for authority
 - Security and freedom
- Idolatry: The “anything goes” <————vs————> “controlling” parent

- *Are there areas where you discipline without ever having instructed the standard?*

- *Where do you expect obedience that children are not developmentally capable of?*

- *Where could you be more proactive in your instruction, rather than reactive in your discipline?*

- *What behaviors do you struggle “to control” in your children?*

Case Scenarios

1. Dinner table
2. Chores
3. Education/School work
4. Kids playing with siblings
5. The Ask: Whining, fussing
6. Discipline