



## How Parental is Our Parenting?

**Proverbs 29:17: (NASB) *Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; He will also delight your soul.***



We are losing our grip. Really. There is a battle for our children that is raging before us and we are losing it miserably. Raising children does not at all look like it once did a few generations ago. Back then, parents were expected to control their households and children were expected to grow up within that control. You might argue that such an arrangement was a little rigid. Perhaps. Now, children and their feelings have become the idols of their parents' lives and those parents dutifully bow before and serve the desires, the hormones and the natural immaturity their children display. You might say that such an arrangement is a little - well, a lot permissive. Absolutely! So, what do we do about it? How do we think, act and respond to our present parenting crisis? How do we swim upstream against the current of pitiful parenting and grab hold of and apply principles of powerful parenting?

Today we will suggest five parenting principles we believe to be scripturally-based guidelines for powerful parenting, and as such can change your children's future!

## PARENTING Principle

**A *CARING* parent is positioned to raise a caring child.**

***PARENTAL CARING* is acting according to the best long-term interests of those entrusted to you.**

***PARENTAL CARING* is NOT a series of emotional displays; it is a series of courageous actions.**

A lack of understanding this parenting characteristic is, we believe, the chief reason we are losing the parenting battle of our day! Our premise is, "We as parents do not really care about our children." We *think* we care about our children. We actually love the *idea* about caring for our children, but we really do not.

When we look around, we see children who do not know how to grow up. They do not know how to lose or deal with their thoughts and feelings.

The following audio clip is a portion of a reaction piece regarding the recent Florida school shooting tragedy.



### A common issue/fatherlessness, *Epidemic of Fatherless Children, Glenn Beck*

- He grew up without a father. Why aren't we talking about that? The data is so clear about the links between fatherless children and violence and suicide and dropping out of school and drug and alcohol abuse. Of the deadliest mass shootings in the last 15 years, nine of them were committed by males under 30 years old. Seven of those nine came from fatherless homes. Now, this isn't to drum up sympathy — oh, we're trying to make — no, we're not. We're trying to understand it. And obviously, not everybody who grew up without a father has their life ruined, becomes a criminal, becomes a murderer. But America has an epidemic of fatherless homes! And we are only getting worse.*

The facts show the value of homes with fatherly influence are great, but what about a child raised by a loving mother with good influence? It is possible and is an enormous challenge, but we have God's ideal design of a father and a mother. Boys growing up in an environment of having a father who cares, who has integrity and who believes in righteousness have a dramatically higher chance of growing up to be real men.

**God is our ultimate parenting example.** To understand His **PARENTAL CARING**, it is important to look at His treatment of the entire human race as His children through the scope of not one small life, but the scope of eternity.

### God's **PARENTAL CARING** began in Genesis:

**Genesis 2:15-17:** (NASB) <sup>15</sup>Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>The LORD God commanded the man, saying, From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; <sup>17</sup>but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.

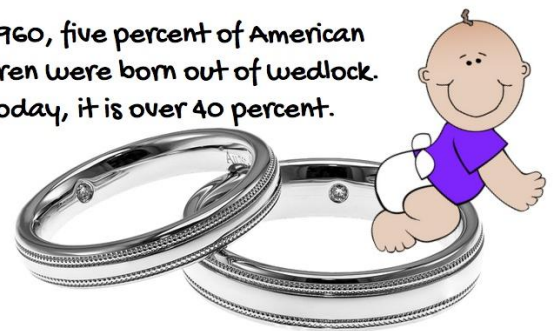
God cared by providing a growth environment, work, responsibility, rules, accountability and consequences!



### 5 to 40 percent out of wedlock, *Epidemic of Fatherless Children, Glenn Beck*

- In 1960, five percent of American children were born out of wedlock. Today, that's over 40. 40! And it's not getting better, because marriage means nothing to people. Why does it mean nothing? I hear the lecture my grandmother gave me. "Do you think your grandfather and I loved each other all those years?" "Well, yeah, Grandma, I kind of did." "No! Marriage is hard. Sometimes we chose just to stick it out, because we were married, and it meant something."*

In 1960, five percent of American children were born out of wedlock. Today, it is over 40 percent.



Children are not learning commitment. When they do not learn commitment, they do not learn responsibility and when they do not learn responsibility, they do not understand maturity.

**Our premise:** "Parents do not care about their children." Caring is not a series of emotional displays. Caring is a courageous action, not a feeling.



The New Testament obviously adds the dimension of Christ, but it is still teaching us how to parent and lead with caring intentions and actions:

**1 Corinthians 4:14-19:** (NRSV) <sup>14</sup>*I am not writing this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. <sup>15</sup>For though you might have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers. Indeed, in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. (Paul took the role of a father figure to the body of Christ. He was brave to assume the fatherly role to such troubled children. He cared by action.) <sup>16</sup>I appeal to you, then, be imitators of me. <sup>17</sup>For this reason I sent you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ Jesus, as I teach them everywhere in every church. <sup>18</sup>But some of you, thinking that I am not coming to you, have become arrogant. <sup>19</sup>But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power.*

Paul not only speaks as a spiritual father, he points out the difference between being a father and a guardian and that difference is authority. Parental authority is rightly expressed as we display **PARENTAL CARING** for our children with actions that move them towards maturity. It is about *what you do* for your child's ultimate benefit. Soothing them now does not help them later. Caring for our children is work.

**Caring is so much more than we generally think it is.  
What do we base that caring action on?**

Because caring is a verb and not an adjective, it needs a clear source. Any action in our lives has a place or thought of origination. For caring to be nurturing and effective, it must come from our most powerful personal reservoir of integrity and righteousness, or else the action of caring will not be balanced and will potentially bring damage. Integrity and righteousness are impossible to teach if we do not have them.

Competence is built upon caring. True competence cannot be fully learned from a book; it is a character trait that must be learned through life experience. Competence is being mature and grounded in character. It is internal.

## **PARENTING** Principle

**A COMPETENT parent is positioned to raise a competent child. To have PARENTAL COMPETENCE is to be mature and grounded in character. It is adopting within your character the lessons of the experiences of life for the purpose of growth and long-term victory.**

Our present-day emotional expressions of caring are not protecting our children, but they are protecting our own feelings at the expense of our children.



**"No iPhone," Tim Hawkins' Parenting Songs**  
(Sung to the tune of Sara Bareilles' "Love Song")

*We're at the mall the other day and they're just begging me for an iPhone for an hour. "I want an iPhone! I want an iPhone! I want an iPhone!" I finally said, dude:*



I'm not going to buy you an iPhone  
Cause you asked for it  
Like you need one -- you don't  
I'm not going to buy you an iPhone  
You're insane if you think I'll pay for it  
So be on your way  
I'm not going to listen, go away  
You're wasting all your time here's a dime  
If you find a payphone but no iPhone, today

***Don't worry that children never listen to you; worry that they are always watching you.***

— Robert Fulghum

"I would rather see a sermon than hear one any day." We must be the sermon that our children see. Our actions are bigger than our words.



**Patrick:** My father taught me to pay cash for everything, when possible. My dad, or stepfather, took me to church, taught me to fish, tie my shoes, save money, work, tithe, serve others, etc. He also raised five boys that were not his. He decided not to have kids of his own, so he could raise us. I guess he taught me how to be a man.

Patrick was raised by a man who was not his natural father, but who cared enough to teach him integrity and righteousness and how to be a man.

**God is our ultimate parenting example.** God's **PARENTAL CARING** was a result of His **PARENTAL COMPETENCE** which was displayed in the uncountable intricacies of His earthly creation.

**One intricacy which is often brushed aside was the creation of woman from man:**

**Genesis 2:18-24:** (NASB) <sup>18</sup>Then the LORD God said, *It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.*

God's **PARENTAL COMPETENCE** was shown in the foresight of Adam realizing his lack. Adam was alone which God allowed on purpose.

<sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. <sup>22</sup>The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man and brought her to the man.

God's **PARENTAL COMPETENCE** was displayed in evidencing to Adam that the woman was part of him. He would not have learned that if Eve was already there.





<sup>23</sup>The man said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. <sup>24</sup>For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

God's **PARENTAL COMPETENCE** was evident in Adam's own conclusion - God acted, and Adam learned.



I had one child and he did not have siblings. When we played games together, like Ping-Pong, my wife would say to me, "Why didn't you let Paul win?" When he eventually beat me, he truly earned it. It brought him great joy and accomplishment. He grew to the challenge. That is why I did not let him win.

There was a growth process. Learning to be a gracious winner means you learn to lose. You learn sportsmanship, effort, discipline and much more. There is so much value in letting a child lose.

### **Let them fail, Why It's So Important to Let Your Kids Fail, CNN**

- *I usually catch myself when I do it. My kids come home with a great mark on a test and I say, "Good job! Way to go!" But then I think wait a second, am I supposed to be saying good job? Aren't I supposed to be praising the effort not the result? Why is that so hard to do?*
- *It's harder when they don't do well.*
- *Why is it so important to let our kids fail?*
- *That helps us in life to learn our way. Nobody in life succeeded 100 percent of the time and teaching our kids how to do that and to see the opportunity in what felt like tragedy. That's when we become better participants in life rather than people who would rather not play the game at all than play the game and lose.*

The Apostle Paul focused on teaching with **PARENTAL COMPETENCE** so as to bring those taught to the same competence he had.

### **Maturity goes hand in hand with freedom and privilege:**

**Hebrews 5:12-14:** (NRSV) <sup>12</sup>For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food; <sup>13</sup>for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness.

**PARENTAL COMPETENCE** was necessary to be able to call out immaturity.

**Competence is internal:**

<sup>14</sup>But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.

**PARENTAL COMPETENCE** was required to be able to see, spell out and solve the issues at hand.

### **Learning self-reflection, Why It's So Important to Let Your Kids Fail, CNN**

- *My son was in a play. When I gave him feedback his immediate thing was, "I can't. I can't pay attention." And I said that's what you've been practicing to do. You're supposed to try and then he started crying, "What if I try my hardest and you can't tell I am trying." But that third performance he did a better job and I'm not the only one who noticed. So, I'm wondering should I have told him from the beginning, should I have stepped in?*



- *It's good that you didn't step in because if you're always stepping in he's going to think he has to learn everything from you. It let him trip and fall but then you talked about it and you gave him some feedback. You gave him some time to walk away and think about it. He solved the problem within himself and came back and you saw a better result. So, understand, just because your kid might feel upset in the moment you didn't break him. You have to help him be more self-reflective and that's what you want to talk about even with him.*

Failing is good because that is where you learn.

1 Peter 2:21: (NASB) *For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in his steps.*

Christian competence is a breeding ground for **PARENTAL COMPETENCE!** To acquire the character trail of competence, you must develop Christian living principles. To be a competent parent, you must grow up.

**Parental Competence is driven by our character development.  
How do we express it to our children?**



**PARENTAL CARING** is the overriding action factor in parenting, fed by **PARENTAL COMPETENCE** which is essentially, maturity of character. This maturity of character is evidenced by how we actually respond to the trials and difficulties of life. Our response to these things identifies our next Parenting Principle...

## PARENTING Principle

**A CAPABLE parent is positioned to raise a capable child.  
To be a CAPABLE PARENT is to have the capacity  
to absorb the challenges and Failures  
often encountered along the road  
and use them as tools towards your ultimate objective.**

Being truly capable is applying the character lessons of competency in your every day, even when no one else knows. Capable is external, competence is internal.



You're stayin' home, Tim Hawkins Parenting Songs  
(Sung to the tune of Chris Daughtry's "I'm Going Home")

You stayed out too late last night, I heard you sneaking in  
Hanging out at who knows where  
Don't even try to blame this on your friends  
And trust me, dude, it won't happen again  
You're staying home  
It's the place where you belong  
You done wrong and now you're grounded for a week  
I still love you  
But you keep breaking your curfew



You'll regret how late you chose to be  
Your abuses and excuses are getting old  
So, you're staying home  
You're staying home

Parents need to set boundaries for their children's safety. Even if the children do not realize it, boundaries provide a sense of comfort and security.



My son, Tim, is in the Coast Guard and thrives on the environment of rules and focus in a dangerous job. When he was growing up, he did not want boundaries. It was a struggle with him. As parents, we had to be firm and put our foot down. It is interesting that one child that was so against the boundaries is the child of ours that thrives in the boundaries.

***There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other, wings. — Johann Wolfgang von Goethe***

If you do not give your children the roots first, they will never develop the wings. Parenting today is all about wings. Fly, be free! Without giving them the guidance, experience, challenges, maturity, integrity and righteousness, they are not going to be able to fly. They will crash land.

**God is our ultimate parenting example.** God's **PARENTAL COMPETENCE** gave Adam the ability to see deep meaning.

**God's CAPABLE PARENTING** was expressed in His profound management of man's sin:

**Genesis 3:8-13:** (NASB) <sup>8</sup>*They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, Where are you?*

God's **CAPABLE PARENTING** was patient. He did what He normally did - He sought His children's company. There was a distinct sound of God walking in the garden and He knew there was a problem and sought their fellowship. He knew where they were, but He called them anyway because He needed them to speak for themselves.

<sup>10</sup>*He said, I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself. <sup>11</sup>And He said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?*

God's **CAPABLE PARENTING** was direct and wise. He asked, even though He knew the answer. Adam needed to say the words.

<sup>12</sup>*The man said, The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate. <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, What is this you have done? And the woman said, The serpent deceived me, and I ate.*

God's **CAPABLE PARENTING** was attentive and firm. He directly responded to His son's explanation. Be present with your children the way God is with His children.



**Good dad and man, Epidemic of Fatherless Children, Glenn Beck**

- *Having a father isn't a guarantee of anything. It's not a cure-all. We make our own choices. We're responsible for our own choices. And there are plenty*



*of abusive, or fathers that are in the home, but are completely absent. Trying to be a good dad seems like a niche thing these days. Trying to be a good man, I don't even know what that means. How do we expect a teenage boy to understand what a man is, when you can't even talk about it? Try to understand - what is a man? Tell me, what is a man? What is a good man?*

Being a good man and parent is applying the principles of Christianity and standing for something bigger than you. Society today devalues the purpose of the father raising the children. We are seeing the results of that. We are seeing men who are growing up to not be men, but to be boys. An example is the level of maturity of many of the professional athletes are childish. They are children in men's bodies.

God **CARED** enough to show us that we needed **COMPETENT** characters and gave us the tools to make us **CAPABLE**:

Ephesians 4:11-15: (NRSV) <sup>11</sup>The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

Elders were, and still should be, chosen from within the congregation by the raising of hands. Based on the selections of these congregations, the elders had different abilities. Some were focused on prophecy, others were great orators and were evangelists, some were pastors shepherding and protecting the flock, and others were teachers. They each used their ability to help the ecclesia (church) grow. This is the way it should be for parents. You combine the talents, ability and observation of two different people.



My wife would frequently say, "Hey Rick, you need to spend more time with Emily." I would do as she recommended and every time she was right. She could see it and knew that particular child needed her dad a little more at that time and we were able to fill the gap together.

**CAPABLE PARENTING** is revealed in the equipping of our children for the work of adulthood.

<sup>13</sup>until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

**CAPABLE PARENTING** is tested in the length of the process necessary for children to mature. Emotions do not stand up when the process takes a long time. That is why we say, "Parents do not care about their children," because we shower them with emotions, not action. Capable parenting realizes the need to stand firm.

<sup>14</sup>We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup>But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

For the body of Christ, plugging into the ecclesia (church) arrangement is the best way to operate. Follow that example of pooling resources and working together.

**CAPABLE PARENTING** is crystallized when it does not back down from its driving principles. Too often parents worry about damaging self-esteem. Do the things necessary so your children can grow.





Children (both spiritual and physical) have little strength and need **CAPABLE PARENTING**.

**CARING, COMPETENCE and being CAPABLE.**  
**All is good so far, but what about managing our emotions?**

Emotions are where the battle of parenting is usually won or lost. It goes back to our original premise that "parents no longer care about their kids." The next Parenting Principle needs to be a centerpiece of our parenting efforts if we are to have any real opportunity for success...

## **PARENTING** Principle

**A CONTROLLED parent is positioned to raise a controlled child.**  
**To exhibit PARENTAL CONTROL can be an extraordinarily**  
**difficult parenting characteristic,**  
**as it requires firmly governing your emotions.**

Parental control requires learning to see yourself from the outside in, just as your child would see you. It requires action based on righteous principle and not your immediate feelings or reactions related to circumstances.



For me, the most practical and relatable example is when we get angry. I am a passionate individual and in raising children, one of the decisions I tried hard to live up to was to never let anger lead me, but to use anger as a tool when I thought it was a good tool to use. When I was angry, I had to step away and realize my child did not need me to be angry but to listen. Occasionally they needed to see me angry. I remember one circumstance with my youngest daughter when she lied to me and it was becoming a habit. I tried every other way and I allowed myself to be angry and I walked out. I got in the car and drove away. She was petrified, and I wanted her to be. I drove away because I thought, "She needs to see that this has dire consequences." I came back 20 minutes later, and she said, "Dad, are you okay?" I said, "Yes, but are you?" Then we could talk.

Use anger only as a tool when necessary.



**"Your Attitude to Change," Tim Hawkins Parenting Songs**  
*(Sung to the tune of John Mayer's "Waiting on the World to Change")*

You better quit all that complaining  
Don't want to hear another sound  
If I hear anymore whining  
I'm gonna turn the car around  
You got a little television  
And you had enough to eat  
If you don't change your disposition



I'm gonna leave you on the street  
So, I'm waiting  
For your attitude to change  
I keep on waiting  
For your attitude to change  
You say that I ain't fair  
I guess that would matter if I cared  
So, I keep on waiting  
For your attitude to change

***At every step the child should be allowed to meet the real experience of life; the thorns should never be plucked from his roses. — Ellen Key***

Never take the thorns from the roses of your child. Let them experience the thorns, so they can learn from them.



**Teach to want more through effort, *Raising Spoiled Kids - Learn How to Say No*, CNN**

- *My kids will say, "Mommy please, please can I have this?" They will ask me day, after day, after day and eventually they will wear me down and I will say, "Yes."*
- *What is the advice so that as parents we're not going to bring up spoiled kids?*
- *What you want to do is to raise children who have a process to get from A to B that makes them feel good about themselves, makes them be able to say, "I've got this."*
- *I feel like my children are never satisfied and happy with what they have. That's my issue.*
- *Don't worry about if your kids are happy or satisfied. They're never going to be happy or satisfied. We don't want them to be because you want them to look at the world and say, "I want more, I want more, I want more." But you want them to be able to do it in a way where it comes from their efforts, not poking at somebody else.*

Teach your children to earn what they want. They will appreciate it so much more.

God is our ultimate parenting example.

**His PARENTAL CONTROL has been on display for ages and was first exhibited as He firmly dealt with the sin of His children:**

Genesis 3:22-24: (NASB) <sup>22</sup>*Then the LORD God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.*

God's PARENTAL CONTROL soberly weighed the facts of sin upon the scale of justice. It is written so we can understand this is how you parent.

<sup>23</sup>*therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.*

God's PARENTAL CONTROL followed through. He punished His children and continued their responsibilities. There was punishment, but there was still responsibility.

<sup>24</sup>*So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.*



God's **PARENTAL CONTROL** was firm and powerful. He would now guide His children in the way that their choices warranted an environment that would teach them the full consequences of sin. He had control and consistency. God did not change His original consequence for Adam and Eve because He felt bad. Even though He would watch them suffer, He saw the bigger picture of eternity. He had consistency and control. We need to control how we feel so we do the right thing.



**Competent capable be a big kid, *Raising Spoiled Kids - Learn How to Say No, CNN***

- *(Interviewer) So if you're passing by an ice cream truck and you really, really want ice cream what might you say to your mom?*
- *(Child whining) Please, Mommy! You never let me have Mr. Softee!*
- *(Mother) That is exactly what just happened.*
- *(Interviewer) And do you think that the more you do that your mom might give in eventually?*
- *(Child) Yeah.*
- *(Interviewer) Do you want to be a big kid?*
- *(Child) Yeah!*
- *(Interviewer) So, guess what? We need to make choices to show that we're a big kid. And you know what's going to happen? Your mom is going to offer you ice cream.*
- *(Child) Would you?*
- *(Mother) I am.*
- *(Interviewer) Yes.*
- *(Child) Thank you!*
- *(Interviewer) After he shows big kid behavior.*
- *(Mother) Oh, interesting.*
- *(Interviewer) I know with our little boys that the number one thing they want to feel like is that they're growing up, and so incentivizing them to do behaviors that show that they are a big kid will get them the big kid goodies. And it also helps to train him that you are an authority because at the end of the day no child wants to be in control of the situation. When you fast-forward a decade, he needs to know that you are competent, capable, and you can get the job done.*



Our **PARENTAL CONTROL** entails not only controlling our emotions but also the continued diligence necessary to see a long term challenging and demanding job through to the end...

Our **PARENTAL CONTROL** requires us to teach with continuity:

Proverbs 22:6: (KJV) *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

Our **PARENTAL CONTROL** desperately needs daily wisdom from above to provide proper guidance:

Ephesians 6:4: (NASB) *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

We must bring ourselves up *in the discipline and instruction of the Lord*. If you are a new Christian, apply the principles as you are learning them and show your child what you are learning and how you are learning to be a better parent and watch them respect the development.

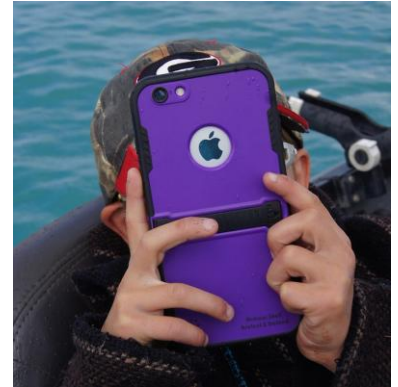


Our PARENTAL CONTROL reminds us to see our children as children and help them up the ladder of maturity:

Colossians 3:21: (NASB) *Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.*

We need to train our children, praise them, discipline them, coach them, be an example to them. Give them grace to grow like God gives us! Use godly PARENTAL CONTROL.

It is controlling what you say and how you teach. It is controlling the child's ability to see and do things and it is controlling what they have and what they do not have. There is something to be said about children not having their electronics all the time! Electronics can be helpful, but they can also be the devil's handiwork. They get so obsessed with the game they forget the reality. Parental control is necessary here also. Be the example first and put the electronics away! Kids need you, they do not need your screen.



How can we practically and continually apply all of these principles when we are so faulty?



There is one more thing we desperately need to keep our parenting ship on course: a compass. When you are away at sea there are no landmarks, but there are the fixed points of the compass. Just like a mariner needs that compass, our Parenting Principles need the fixed points of godly instruction to continually check our course.

## PARENTING Principle

**A CONSCIENCE DRIVEN parent is positioned to raise a conscience driven child.**  
**To be a CONSCIENCE DRIVEN parent is to be in willing submission to a cause and Force higher than you.**

The human conscience is faulty and at its very best unreliable, so we need to have our conscience tuned to the biblical principles of godliness and Christlikeness. To be conscience driven is to regularly and willingly act in accordance with the dictates of the high road of spiritual integrity.

Sometimes we make mistakes and we need to admit them to our children. It can be a great growth experience for us and for them.





**"Leaving without you," Tim Hawkins Parenting Songs  
(Sung to the tune of U2's "With or Without You")**

Hear the car out in the drive  
See a soul waiting outside  
And we wait for you  
We are going to the store  
We've waited long  
We won't wait more  
And we'll leave  
Without you  
Leaving without you  
Leaving without you, Oh, oh  
We will leave  
With or without you  
Let's go. Go  
Leaving without you

***Let parents bequeath to their children not riches, but the spirit of reverence. — Plato***

**God is our ultimate parenting example.**

God's **CONSCIENCE DRIVEN** parenting saw the inevitability of sin and planned for its payment long before anyone knew: God's conscience understood sin would come and His plan made a way for sin to play a positive role in the long run.

Genesis 3:14-15: (NASB) <sup>14</sup>*The LORD God said to the serpent, Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you will go, and dust you will eat all the days of your life;*

God's **CONSCIENCE DRIVEN** parenting is utterly consistent. He does not let any sin go unpunished.

<sup>15</sup>*And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.*

God's **CONSCIENCE DRIVEN** parenting is merciful in its justice. He provided the necessary pathway back to His favor and to life for His fallen children. In this early and powerful prophecy, God says to Satan, "This is going to cost you your life. The seed of the woman (Jesus) will bruise you on the head and kill you." God's conscience made a way for justice to be satisfied.

My wife and I always tried to teach our son to be loving and giving and to look for the needs of others. As an adolescent, he asked if he could empty his bank account for someone in real need. Our first reaction was, "What!?" We realized if we stopped him, he would not have learned that joy of giving. So, we let him. He is a married adult now and recently insisted on something for his mom and me. And again, we said, "What? Why?" His answer was "Who do you think I learned it from?" As a dad, it brought tears to my eyes.





**Our CONSCIENCE DRIVEN parenting must first be humble before God:**

**James 1:19-22:** (NASB) <sup>19</sup>*This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.*

**Our CONSCIENCE DRIVEN parenting must next be receptive to God's word and will:**

<sup>21</sup>*Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.*

You cannot be receptive unless you are humble first.

**Our CONSCIENCE DRIVEN parenting must then be driven to act in accordance with God's righteousness:**

<sup>22</sup>*But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.*

Parenting is about "doing," not how you feel.

 **We need the nuclear family, *Epidemic of Fatherless Children*, Glenn Beck**

- The unpopular truth is, we need a nuclear family. We need a father. We need to know what a man is. The nuclear family is not something from the 1950s. It's from the beginning of time. It's the bedrock of every society. And our bedrock has deep cracks into it. And it is starting to shake into sand. You want to know what you can do? If you're a dad, dig in and do better. If you have the means, reach out and be a father figure to somebody who doesn't have a father.*

**Let your PARENTAL CARE be action-based:**

**Proverbs 29:14-18:** (NASB) <sup>14</sup>*If a king judges the poor with truth, His throne will be established forever.*

**Let your PARENTAL COMPETENCE be driven by maturity of character:**

<sup>15</sup>*The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.*

**Let your PARENTAL CAPABILITY be rich in practical experience:**

<sup>16</sup>*When the wicked increase, transgression increases; but the righteous will see their fall.*

**Let your PARENTAL CONTROL override all emotion:**

<sup>17</sup>*Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; he will also delight your soul.*

**Let your CONSCIENCE DRIVEN parenting always see the big picture:**

<sup>18</sup>*Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, but happy is he who keeps the law.*

God's end result for all this is, to teach all people His way, through Jesus.

Take parenting seriously. Work at it and put yourself aside. Put godly principles first and do good for your children.

*So, how parental is our parenting?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...  
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*





Join us next week for our March 5, 2018, podcast,  
"How Do You Find Your Way Through Grief?"

***It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men. – Frederick Douglass***

### **The Law given to Moses:**

Exodus 20:12: (KJV) *Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

Exodus 21:15-17: (NRSV) <sup>15</sup>Whoever strikes father or mother shall be put to death. <sup>16</sup>Whoever kidnaps a person, whether that person has been sold or is still held in possession, shall be put to death. <sup>17</sup>Whoever curses father or mother shall be put to death.

Deuteronomy 21:18-21: (NRSV) <sup>18</sup>If someone has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father and mother, who does not heed them when they discipline him, <sup>19</sup>then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his town at the gate of that place. <sup>20</sup>They shall say to the elders of his town, This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a glutton and a drunkard. <sup>21</sup>Then all the men of the town shall stone him to death. So you shall purge the evil from your midst; and all Israel will hear, and be afraid.

**The Law was very severe regarding honoring one's parents and *not* becoming rebellious.**

### **Other scriptural principles needed to understand raising children:**

Proverbs 10:1-6: (NRSV) <sup>1</sup>The proverbs of Solomon. A wise child makes a glad father, but a foolish child is a mother's grief. <sup>2</sup>Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death. <sup>3</sup>The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry, but he thwarts the craving of the wicked. <sup>4</sup>A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. <sup>5</sup>A child who gathers in summer is prudent, but a child who sleeps in harvest brings shame. <sup>6</sup>Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

**These are *learned* behaviors for a child.**

### **How much freedom should a child be given?**

1 Timothy 3:4-5: (NRSV) <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own household well, keeping his children submissive and respectful in every way <sup>5</sup>for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church?

**Enough freedom to still remain respectful in every way.**

Ephesians 6:1-4: (NRSV) <sup>1</sup>Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup>Honor your father and mother - this is the first commandment with a promise <sup>3</sup>so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth. <sup>4</sup>And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.



**Proverbs 30:11-13:** (NRSV) *<sup>11</sup>There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers. <sup>12</sup>There are those who are pure in their own eyes yet are not cleansed of their filthiness. <sup>13</sup>There are those - how lofty are their eyes, how high their eyelids lift!*

**Righteousness is our basis for responding, not emotional reaction:**

**James 1:19-22:** (NASB) *<sup>19</sup>This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. <sup>21</sup>Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. <sup>22</sup>But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.*

It takes time to have the word of righteousness implanted - this only can happen if we continually feed it to our children!

**This next text brings in the thought of reigning in one's emotions in the disciplining process:**

**Proverbs 19:16-20:** (NRSV) *<sup>16</sup>Those who keep the commandment will live; those who are heedless of their ways will die. <sup>17</sup>Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and will be repaid in full. <sup>18</sup>Discipline your children while there is hope; do not set your heart on their destruction. <sup>19</sup>A violent tempered person will pay the penalty; if you effect a rescue, you will only have to do it again. <sup>20</sup>Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom for the future.*

