

# **Parenting 101: Meet the Parents!**

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Session 2: Ages 0 to 5 Years

March 16, 2025

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# Parenting 101: Meet the Parents!

## I. Introduction

## II. Affection

A. Your children belong to God.

B. Your children are a gift from God to you.

- *Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. — Psalm 127:3*

C. Implication: Love your children with deep affection like the priceless gifts that they are.

- *And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." — Matthew 3:16-17*
- *Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. — Colossians 3:21*

D. A few tips:

1. Tell them you love them & are proud of them.

- "Spare the rod and spoil the child, that is true. But, besides the rod, keep an apple to give him when he has done well." - **Martin Luther**

2. Establish dinner, bath time, & nighttime routines that leave them more aware of your affection than your frustration.

3. Be alert for times where you treat them like problems to be solved, distractions to be minimized, obstacles to be overcome.

## III. Attention

Attention flows naturally from affection.

- *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. — Matthew 6:21*

A. You are a parent not merely because you have children but because it is one of your primary callings.

B. As a calling, parenting should shape everything you do & how you do everything.

- *Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.* — **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

C. Implication: Give your children the attention expected of a calling from God.

1. Cultivate the conviction that parenting is a calling you have from God.
2. Spend unhurried time with them.
3. Take time to eat together.
4. Take them with you.

## IV. Authority

Authority at first does not seem to flow from affection & attention as well..

- But, if we are seeking to uphold the Word of God, if we truly love our children with deep affection & if we are truly attentive to our calling as parents, we will carefully teach our children about authority.

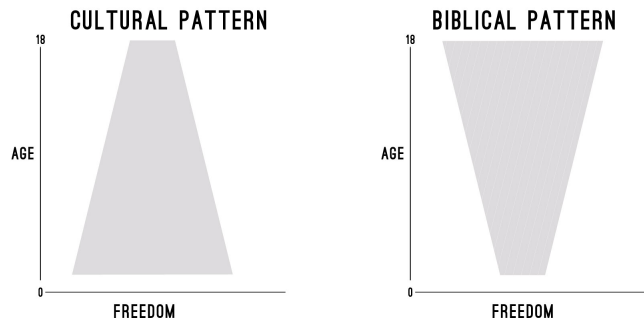
A. Children are created in the image of God & called to respect the authorities God has established.

B. Parents are the first authority children are called to honor & respect.

- *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."* — **Ephesians 6:1-3**

### C. Implication: Train your children to honor, respect, & obey you & your spouse.

- “The most important lesson for the child to learn in this period is that HE IS AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER AUTHORITY. He has been made by God and has a responsibility to obey God in all things.” – **Ted Tripp**



## V. The Use of Physical Discipline

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### 1. The Circle of Blessing

- Obey
- Honor

What is the purpose of children being commanded to obey & honor their parents?

- “Do not wait for this training until your children are teenagers. . . . Deal with this in the first several years. Respectful teenagers are developed when they are 1, 2, 2, 4, or 5, not at 13, 14, 15, or 16.” – **Tedd Tripp**

### 2. The Rescue Back to Blessing

A primary way of disciplining & instructing children in the little years is through physical discipline or spanking

## A. What is spanking?

- “[Spanking] is a parent, in faith toward God and faithfulness toward his or her children, undertaking the responsibility of careful, timely, measured and controlled use of physical punishment to underscore the importance of obeying God, this rescuing the child from continuing in his foolishness until death.” — **Tedd Tripp**
- *He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him. 13:24*
- *Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death. 19:18*
- *Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him. 22:15*
- *Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death. 23:13-14*
- *The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother. 29:15*

## B. What should I spank for?

- Disobedience & later disrespect.

## C. How should I spank them?

### 3. A Few Tips

- A. Start young.
- B. Be consistent with clear & regular reinforcement.
- C. Limit choices.
- D. Limit rules.
  - “Your task as a father is not to get your kids to conform to the standard, but rather to love the standard.” — **Doug Wilson**
- E. Prepare your children ahead of time for the most tempting moments of the day.
- F. Prepare yourself ahead of time for the most tempting moments of the day.
- G. When you get angry, repent.
  - “If you do find yourself more upset because your child has sinned against you than you are because he sinned against God, you must quickly and prayerfully get your heart in such a state that personal desires are temporarily set aside. You must be willing to lay aside your personal rights and forgive your child’s offense against you so that you may focus on fulfilling your parental obligations to him. Only then can you discipline your child with the assurance that your passion is not unholy anger.” — **Lou Priolo**

## **VI. Conclusion**