

Parenting Teens - Week #1 - The Gospel and Parenting Teenagers

1. Intro

a. Ephesians 6:4

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

b. Proverbs 22:6

“Train up a child according to his way, even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

c. Just like with parenting toddlers and elementary school kids, the main task and calling of a parent is the same. What is that goal?

- i. “The goal for the Christian parent is to be *faithful to God’s Word by his grace and for his glory.*” – Stuart Scott and Martha Peace (The Faithful Parent)

d. Many parents fear the teen years with their kids.

2. What Did You Expect?



### 3. The Most Important Task

#### a. Gospel Hope

##### i. Romans 15:13

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

##### ii. 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

“Let a man consider us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found faithful.”

##### iii. 2 Corinthians 4:1

“Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart...”

##### iv. Parenting is hard. Parenting teens is really hard. Yet, the gospel is what will sustain us and give us hope and joy as parents.

##### v. Our kids will make choices that will hurt us and crush us. They will not always do what we hope they will do. No matter what we do or say to them, they may still decide to go against our counsel and make their life, and your life, very hard.

- vi. What Hope is Not: It is not a guarantee of desired outcomes or comfortable circumstances.
  - vii. What Hope Is: A confident faith in the goodness of God's providence for one's family, even when plans do not unfold as expected.
  - viii. Hardship in parenting, especially with teens, is very normal.
- b. The Heart vs. Behavior
- i. Proverbs 4:23  
  
"Guard your heart with all diligence, For from it *flow* the springs of life."
  - ii. Proverbs 20:5  
  
"Counsel in the heart of a man is *like* deep water, But a man of discernment draws it out."
  - iii. Hebrews 4:12  
  
"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."
  - iv. As with anyone else in life, we never move beyond the gospel. We never are at a place where we no longer need the gospel in our lives, nor do we ever get to a place where we stop giving the gospel to our teens.



- i. First, this must cause us to see our constant need of the gospel, and to make sure we are worshiping God and not our own desires.
- ii. Second, we must make sure we are responding to our teens with grace.
- iii. And if we respond in anger to them every time they push our buttons, then what we are really teaching them is that God really is not enough and does not really have the answers they are in need of.

c. Managing Fear in Parenting

- i. There is a fear that if our kid sins in a certain way or has a pattern of sinful behavior, then there is hope for them.
- ii. There is also a fear that if our kids sin or respond in a particular way, that is because we didn't do something the right way and we have ruined them.
- iii. Yes, our words and actions as parents have consequences. But ultimately, God is in control of our kids.

d. Trusting in God's Sovereignty

- i. Shifting our Focus away from fear and toward faith. We can do everything "right" and our kid can still rebel and never make a profession of faith.
- ii. Accepting that God loves our children more than we do.

- iii. Believing that God is working all things for good in His perfect timing.
- iv. Finding the strength to be sustained through testing seasons of faith.