

## Colossians 3:20-21 — How Does Jesus Change My Parenting?

**December 10, 2017**

Good morning. I hope everyone is enjoying getting ready for Christmas and celebrating the birth of our savior. It will be here before we know it. This morning, we continue our study in the book of Colossians. Today, we learn how Jesus changes parenting. Next week, we will see how Jesus changes the way we work. On the morning of December 24, we take a break from Colossians and learn where we find Jesus before the manger. On Christmas Eve, I will share a devotional on what happened when Jesus was born in the manger. We have a lot coming up in December.

Last week, we slowed down our study in Colossians to look at two verses on marriage. This morning, we will do the same thing as we look at the next two verses in Colossians which talk about the Christian home. Let's begin by reading them.

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. Colossians 3:20–21 (ESV)

### What is the biblical background?

We need to understand these commands in their biblical and historical contexts. First, let's look at their biblical context. In Colossians 3, Paul taught us how Jesus changes a life. He changes lives from the inside out. When Jesus comes into our lives, he gives us a new set of desires that are Jesus' desires mirrored in us. He gives us a new way of thinking that is Jesus' way of thinking mirrored in us. Paul's point was the Christian life is living out of us the new life of Jesus that is in us.

Paul was not telling us to act like someone we are not. He tells us to act like the new people we are because of Jesus in us. In these verses, Paul's point was that Christian children and Christian parents think differently. They act differently because Jesus is living in them. The biblical background of these verses is Paul told children and parents to be who you are in Jesus, not to pretend to be someone you are not.

### **What is the historical background?**

The next thing we need to understand is the historical background. In the Roman Empire, just as a husband held absolute control over his wife so she could be treated like a piece of property, in the same way a father had absolute control over his children. Your children were considered part of your estate. They were another form of livestock. This means a father could abuse his children and nobody could stop him. A father could legally kill his children. In fact, when children were born, they were placed at their father's feet. If the father decided the child would be kept, the child was welcomed into the family. If the father didn't accept the child at birth, it was brought outside the city where the infant died of exposure to the elements and was eaten by animals. People of the worst sort of character patrolled the fields around Roman cities at night to find discarded children. The discarded children were picked up by sadistic people and used as slaves, prostitutes or for other twisted purposes.<sup>1</sup>

If a father found himself short of funds, he could sell his children into slavery. Children had no rights. If you had a good dad, things went well. If your

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<sup>1</sup> Keener, C. S. "Family and Household." Edited by Craig A. Evans and Stanley E. Porter. Dictionary of New Testament Background: A Compendium of Contemporary Biblical Scholarship. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

dad was weird, things did not go well. There was nothing you could do about it. When Paul said parents are not provoke or discourage their children, that was not the cultural norm of the day. That was uniquely Christian.

Paul also said children are to obey their parents in everything. In that day, obedience to parents was normal. It was expected. Disobedience to parents could be deadly. Today, things are different. Disobedience to parents is considered normal. Children are expected to rebel. By the time children reach puberty, it is expected they will become obstinate toward their parents and defy parental authority. We see this all the time in movies and television. The classic movie about this was Ferris Bueller's Day Off.

Today, teenage rebellion is so common, we think it is a stage every young adult passes through. Teenage rebellion isn't a stage children pass through. Rebellion may be normal for many teenagers but it is not normative for all teenagers. All teenagers do not need to rebel and break their parents' hearts. Teenage rebellion is rooted in sin, not maturity. This morning we will see some of the dangers that go with rebellion, especially for Christians teens.

The key thing to remember is in the first century, it was common for parents to be harsh with their children. Today, we have the opposite where most parents live for their children. In the first century, children rarely rebelled against their parents. Today, it is the opposite. Rebellion is considered normal. That is the historical background for these verses. Let's study them.

**Children honor Christ by obeying their parents in everything.**

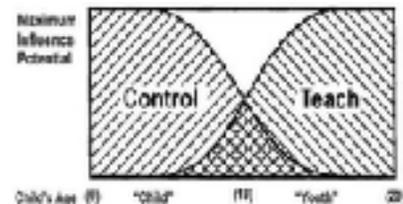
Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Colossians 3:20 (ESV)

**“Children” refers to ones living in dependence on their parents.**

Let’s work through this verse. The first word is “child.” This word in the Greek typically refers to a younger son or daughter still living in dependence on their parents. Since it is a child living in dependence on their parents, in one sense it can address children from ages 2 to age 22 if they are living in dependence on their parents. Obviously, younger children live in more dependence on their parents than older children. That is normal. If you are out of high school and still living in dependence on your parents for your cell phone bill, your car insurance, your health insurance, your life insurance, and your college tuition, this means you are still under your parents’ authority and you need to listen and obey your parents. Granted, you enjoy more independence than when you lived at home, but you are still dependent on your parents and need to listen to them. The typical full transition from childhood dependence to adult independence usually takes place at marriage. It can also take place when you are living on your own and financially supporting yourself.

What is the difference between young children obeying their parents and older children obeying their parents?

When children are young, they need to obey their parents primarily for their own safety. When kids are young, Mom and Dad tell them not to climb the bookcase so they don’t die. Mom or Dad tells them to stop playing with pots on the stove so they don’t get burned.



Younger children are given commands, and they need to obey.

As children get older, they still need to listen and obey their parents until they are on their own, but instead of safety, the discussions are more around wisdom and how to make good choices. Instead of short commands to obey, they are discussions in which you try to help a son or daughter think rightly and wisely. Obeying Mom and Dad begins by focusing on controlling a child's behavior for their safety. As children get older, obedience moves to discussing topics that teach children to increase their wisdom.

When a child gets to be 18 to 22 years of age, if you are not on your own financially, while their parents shouldn't treat you like they did when you were 2 years old, parents still have a right to speak into their child's life while you are still in a state of dependence on them. That means if you are 20 years old and your parents are helping with car insurance, college bills and a cell phone but you one day decide to buy a motorcycle, your parents have a right to say, "No." When you can take care of your own bills, then buy your motorcycle. In general, the principle is, as a child gets older you move from telling them what to do to teaching them how to make wise choices.

**There is a difference between honoring parents and obeying parents.**

Exodus 20:12 tells us to honor our parents. Exodus 20:12 is primarily, but not exclusively, directed to adult children honoring their aging parents.

**Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12 (ESV)**

Paul's command for children to obey their parents in Colossians is directed to younger children still living in dependence on their parents. When you are an adult child, you make your own decisions. You make your own choices. Adult

children have a responsibility to honor their parents but once they are living in independence, they do not have a responsibility to obey their parents. Adult children should still seek their parents' counsel and their prayers but adult children make their own decisions. Obeying is what we do when we are dependent on our parents. Honoring is what we do for all of our lives toward our parents.

### **What does a child's obedience NOT look like?**

Let me take a few minutes to explain what obedience to parents does not look like. This is geared toward younger children. Many of these I learned from a book called What the Bible Says About Child Training by Richard Fugate.

1. **Obedience is not counting.** When our kids were young, Cindy would tell them dinner was ready, but they would keep watching VeggieTales or playing their games. Finally, she would say, "I am going to count to three and you must be at the dinner table." They would wait until she said "Two," then run to the table sliding into their chairs like a baseball player sliding into home plate. We were teaching our kids obedience is not required until we counted to the number two. They were only in trouble when we said the number three. That was not teaching obedience. It was teaching disobedience and procrastination. Cindy and I eventually changed our strategy. Cindy would say to the kids, "It is time for dinner. What did I say?" If the kids didn't come a few minutes after telling us they heard the dinner time message, we took care of discipline. At first, they freaked out and said, "You didn't count to number

three!” We don’t need to count. When mom says, “It is time for dinner,” you need to obey. Obedience is not counting.

2. **Obedience is not yelling.** Sometimes we teach our kids they do not need to obey until we raise our voices. They can get away with doing what they want until Mom or Dad gets angry. That is not obedience. Let’s take the dinner example. Mom says to her children, “Dinner is ready. What did I say?” If they don’t come after a few minutes, she doesn’t raise her voice. She calmly moves into discipline. At first, the kids will freak out. You remind them that needing to yell is not obedience. “If I know you hear and understand, you need to obey.” Obedience is how the Bible describes the Christian life for children.
3. **Obedience does not always require an explanation.** Children need to learn to obey without explanation. This is especially true with young children. Some of us have future lawyers for kids. Whenever we ask them to do something, instead of obeying us, they keep asking the question, “Why?” We need to teach our children that obedience to parents doesn’t always need an explanation. Sometimes the, “Why” question is a stall tactic to delay or avoid obedience. Sometimes the answer to the “Why” question is legitimate but the answer can come later. Sometimes the reasons are too complex for young children to understand. Children need to learn to obey their parents even if they don’t understand why their parents tell them to do something. The same is true for us with our heavenly father. There are many things in God’s Word where God does not answer the “Why” question. God doesn’t always give us

the answer why he lets tough times in our lives. He often doesn't tell us why we get sick. He just tells us to trust him and obey him in those tough times. That is the story of Abraham heading to the Promised Land. He didn't tell Abraham all the reasons why he was going to the Promised Land. Abraham had to learn to trust and obey God's word without all his "Why" questions being answered. The same is true with our children. They need to learn to trust and obey their parents even if they don't have all their questions answered. That being said, as a child matures, we handle him or her differently. As a child gets older the emphasis moves from obedience to his or her parents to a greater explanation. Even though parents can ask for complete obedience, for the sake of our kids' growth, we spend time answering the "Why" questions.

4. **Obedience is not reverse psychology.** Some parents are tempted into this with strong-willed children. If you want them to do something, you tell them to do the exact opposite so they do what you want them to do. This is telling your children not to eat their vegetables because vegetable are bad for you. You hope that just to spite you, your kids will eat their Brussel sprouts. Sometimes this actually works. You get the results you want out of your children because you tricked them into obedience. The problem is that while they did the right actions, those actions didn't come from the right heart, which is more important than eating their vegetables. You end up training a child's hearts to disobey their parents. A disobedient heart is a more serious problem than not eating Brussel sprouts.

5. **Obedience is not bribing.** Bribing your children to obey your words is not obedience. If you clean up your room, I will give you an extra dessert after dinner. If you stop hitting your brother, you can have a candy bar. Our former president tried bribing North Korea. He paid it money to not develop nuclear weapons and missiles. How well did that work? Bribing a child to obedience doesn't address the problem of the disobedient heart. When your child asks you what he will get if he will obey you, tell him he gets to live. You don't need to bribe a child to obey you.
6. **Obedience is not tolerating situational manipulation.** In our culture, everyone is afraid to discipline their children in public. We are worried someone will turn us into DHS, especially if we spank our children. Even if we discipline our children in a controlled, calm manner, everyone is worried the government will take away their kids. Somehow, kids learn early that in public they can get away with more than home. They use it to their advantage. When Mom and Dad are in the grocery store or the mall, kids love to act up because they know Mom and Dad can't stop them. I was blessed with a very good wife who caught onto the situational manipulation trick. When our kids threw a fit in the grocery store and she whispered in their ear, "Do I need to take you to the car?" At first, the kids didn't believe she would do it but they don't know her like I do. She would calmly leave the full grocery cart in the store. Then she walked the child to the car. We call this the walk of shame. Then she sat with him or her in the back seat. What happened next is a secret but let's just say her Ford Explorer had tinted windows. After one or two

walks of shame and back seat talks they learned not to go crazy in the grocery store.

7. **A child's obedience should be in all things, not just some things.** Every kid has areas where they are more compliant and areas where they are more defiant. Paul was clear — Christian children display their faith by living in complete obedience to their parents. Some kids are great at coming to dinner on time because they love food, but they refuse to do their chores around the house. It is easy to begin cheering for children with a 50 percent completion rate on obedience. That is not obedience. The Christian child displays his faith by living in obedience to his parents in everything, not just some things. Jesus was a child. Jesus grew up in a Christian home. Did Jesus obey his parents on some things or in all things? All things. When Jesus was 12, his parents left him behind in Jerusalem. His parents eventually found him at the temple. Look how he conducted himself around his parents as a preteen.

And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. Luke 2:49–51 (ESV)

8. **Obedience means the home is not a democracy.** There are some parenting books that tell you everybody in the home has a vote and the home is run like a democracy. There is nothing wrong with giving children the opportunity for input on some things but that doesn't mean your house is a democracy. Children need parents, not peers. Parents have a God-given responsibility to be in charge. We set our kids' schedules. We don't let our kids do whatever they want. We control where they go and what they do. We

are responsible for how long they stay at a friend's house. At times, we need to be heavy and say, "No." If we function like peers of our children, not parents for our children, we will raise little tyrants that think the world revolves around them. It doesn't. Of course, there are times when children can vote on family decisions, but parents are still responsible for the family. Parents can always overrule. I like the way a father instructs his son in the book of Proverbs on what happens to children that are not disciplined by their parents.

He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray. Proverbs 5:23 (ESV)

### **Why is a child's rebellion serious?**

I mentioned earlier that childhood rebellion and teenage rebellion are considered a normal part of our culture. They are considered a right of passage. It doesn't have to be that way. For Christian children, it shouldn't be that way. When Paul told children to obey their parents in everything, he was writing to Christians parents and Christian children. Jesus didn't rebel against his parents. You don't have to rebel against your parents. Look what the Bible says about rebellion.

#### **1. Rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft.**

For rebellion is as the sin of divination... 1 Samuel 15:23 (ESV)

In this passage, King Saul rebelled against God. He went from being the king to offering sacrifices on the altar. He did this because he had rebellion in his heart. I simply want to point out that rebellion against the authority God establishes is taken seriously by God. Rebellion against parents may be what

everybody else does, but it shouldn't be what a Christian teenager does.

Teenage rebellion doesn't come from a heart that is mature in Christ. It comes from a sinful heart. As a result of his rebellion, Saul lost his kingship.

## **2. Rebellion leads to a tragic death.**

**The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures. Proverbs 30:17 (ESV)**

This Proverb graphically illustrates that young adults who disobey their parents are literally on a dead-end road. This should be taken literally. How many teenagers end up as drug addicts because they disobeyed the pleading warnings of their parents to get away from drugs and away from the group of friends giving them the drugs? How many teenagers die of opioids because they wouldn't listen to the dire warnings of their mother and father against the drug? I have done the funerals of young adults who chose to disobey their parents and ended up in substance abuse that killed them. Their deaths were violent and shameful. Where did their problems begin? It wasn't with the drugs. It started with the sinful rebellion in their hearts that wouldn't listen to the pleading advice of parents. Young adults, you have no idea how much your Christian parents love you and how much they will do for you if you stay connected and obedient to them, not rebellious against them.

## **3. Rebellion promises to take away future blessing.**

**"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 6:2-3 (ESV)**

Notice the promise. When you honor your parents, it will go well with you. This means the opposite is also true. When you dishonor your parents, it will not

go well with you. This is not a proverb about the way life usually works, it is a promise about the way life always works. It is always to your benefit to honor your parents, especially when you are still dependent on them. This means you tell the truth to your parents. You remember your parents' birthdays. You remember their anniversaries. You always speak about them and to them respectfully. You call them. You go out of your way to spend time with them. This is always to your benefit.

#### **4. Rebellion breaks a parent's heart.**

The proverbs of Solomon. [A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother.](#) Proverbs 10:1 (ESV)

Nothing makes a parent more proud than to see their children making good and wise choices in life. Your parents don't care if you are a brain surgeon or a plumber. They just want to see you making good and wise choices as you follow Jesus. Nothing breaks a parent's heart like watching his or her child make foolish or wasteful choices. If you are a teenager or young adult, understand your parents are not against you. They want you to succeed. They are not perfect. Nobody is more committed to your success than your parents. Your parents want you to be independent. They want you to be on your own. They want you to make good choices.

Now let's look at Paul's words to parents.

#### **Parents are not to provoke or discourage their children.**

Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. Colossians 3:21 (ESV)

The first thing to notice is he began by talking to fathers. The reason he talked to fathers is because in this culture, fathers headed the home. While Paul

talked to fathers pointedly, he talked to both parents principally. Moms, while you are not directly addressed, in principle you are addressed in this text because you are raising your children under your husband's authority.

The word provoke means to create anger or bitterness. Let's see how parents can do this.

### **How can parents provoke their children?**

- 1. Making more emotional withdraws than deposits.** Last week, we learned a wife is like a bank. She needs plenty of emotional deposits, not just withdraws. In the same way, children are like a bank. If you find most of what you are saying to your kids is correction and you are short on compliments, you could be provoking your children. When your child thinks he or she can't do anything right because every time you talk to him or her you are critical, you are making too many withdraws. Your children need to know you believe in them, love them and are proud of them. They need more than correction. They need love.
- 2. Losing control when we are angry provokes our children.** All parents have times when their kids do things that sets us off. When we are out of control in those times, we produce anger and fear in our children. They don't feel safe. The operative emotion in their mind moves from guilt and remorse to fear about what their father or mother will do to them or the family when they find out.
- 3. Correction without instruction provokes children.** This is when your child does something wrong and you respond like a bolt of lightning from the sky. Whack! Your child doesn't know why you hit them. Before we correct, we

must instruct. The purpose of correction is to change behavior, not make a children pay the debt of their crime. When I was a youth pastor, I had one family in the youth group with a weird parenting style. The mother would ground her teenage sons but not tell them why. When I asked the sons what they did, they didn't know. I asked their mother what they did and she said, "If they don't know what they did, that is all the more reason to ground them." I am sorry. That is just weird. Before you correct a child, you must explain why you are correcting them. Remember punishment is not the goal. Change in behavior is the goal. If your child is not crystal clear on why they are being disciplined, your punishment will not lead to correction. It will provoke anger.

4. **Failing to discipline children provokes their anger.** Avoiding discipline communicates to children that you don't love them or care about them.

Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him. Proverbs 13:24 (ESV)

For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." Hebrews 12:6 (ESV)

The source of all discipline must be love. If we fail to discipline our children, it is ultimately because we don't love our children. God disciplines us because he loves us. We discipline our children because we love them and want to turn them from evil. If we don't discipline our children, it is because we love them too little, not because we love them too much. Discipline is work. It is never fun. It is hard for children and hard work for parents. It comes out of love.

Children usually do not feel love at the time they are disciplined, but when they look back on their parents, they will see the love shining through..

5. **Allowing a child to face consequences that are too severe for the lesson**

**learned by the mistake.** As parents, we want our children to discover the world for themselves. We want them to learn. At times, we even allow them to fail to teach them a lesson. For example, we can tell our kids staying out late the night before a test is a bad study strategy. They won't believe us until they see all the red ink on their papers. Sometimes we need to insert ourselves into a situation to protect our children from the consequences instead of letting them learn on their own because the consequences are too severe for the lesson learned. I didn't grow up working on cars. In college, I tried to save money and change my own oil. At the time, I had an old Camaro. It was low to the ground. It was so low, I couldn't crawl under it. I went to the campus garage and asked to borrow a hydraulic lift. I pumped the car up and went under it to change my oil. When the mechanic from the garage saw me under the car, he ran out and told me to get out from under the car immediately. He said, "Where are your jack stands?" That was the first time I ever heard of a jack stand. I learned you always use jack stands under a car. If the car came down from the hydraulic lift while I was under it, I would have died. That would have been too high a price to pay for the lesson learned. I am thankful the school mechanic intervened! Let your kids learn through mistakes but don't hesitate to jump in if the consequences are too severe for the lesson that could be learned. If the severe consequence happens and your children learned you didn't step in so they could learn the hard way, that provokes anger.

6. **Overprotecting a child instead of training a child provokes them to anger.** This can happen with some homeschool parents. Sometimes, in a good-hearted effort to protect children from the negative worldly influences, parents remove a child so far from the world that they never teach their children how to handle the world when they have to face it. This is what I call raising a boy in a bubble until he grows a beard. It doesn't work. We must teach our children how to handle the curves in the road. We cannot always straighten the road for them. Many times these children are fine until they get to college. When they get the freedom of college, they go off the deep end. While we need to protect our kids from the world, we want to teach them how to handle the world.

#### **How can I discourage my child?**

Discourage means to break someone's spirit. One of the books I referenced described it like the breaking in of horses. There were two ways horses are broken. There is a slow way and a fast way. The slow way takes time. It involves a saddle, patience, getting thrown from the horse and hard work. The result is an obedient horse but a good-spirited horse. The other way they break horses is they simply beat the horse to its knees. This is quick. It makes the horse obedient. Breaking in a horse by beating it didn't just break a horse's will, it breaks a horse's spirit. The horse will never be the same again. Paul said parents are to train their children but not break their spirits as they train them. Let's look at how this works out in practice.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Hughes, R. Kent. Colossians and Philemon: The Supremacy of Christ. Preaching the Word. Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1989, pg. 125.

1. **Avoid public humiliation.** Avoid negative talk about your children in public, especially when they are around to hear it. This is mothers getting together and talking about their children in a negative way. It is fathers getting together and talking about their children in a negative way. It is especially bad when your kids are around to hear you talk about them. Kids remember hearing you talk smack about them around your friends. It discourages them. They won't forget.
2. **Negative nicknames discourage a child.** This is another form of publicly humiliating your children. As parents, we can see patterns in our children's behavior. It is easy to make negative a nickname out of it. Don't do it. Don't call one child Stubborn Steve and the other Lazy Larry. Those names hurt. They sting. The kids won't forget.
3. **Showing favoritism discourages a child.** We saw the problem of favoritism in Genesis with Jacob and Esau and how it divided Isaac's family. Don't let one child be favored over the others. Not only does this build resentment between you and your children but it builds resentment among your children. After you are gone, your children will continue to live with the resentment you created.
4. **Unreasonable performance expectations in school and sports discourage a child.** It is hard not to live your dreams through your children, especially in sports. When your children succeed, there is great joy. Remember, your kids are not you. They don't have to be like you. In addition to feeling like they need to measure up to their parents, sometimes children

feel they need to measure up to an older brother or sister. Let each child be himself. Celebrate your child's gifts. Don't force them to measure up to someone else's gifts. When my kids were in junior high, I remember taking them to a wrestling tournament that had a little kids competition. I remember one father in particular because he was huge. He was a tank. He was solid muscle, probably 6 foot 5 inches with a beard and tattoos. He was scary. His son was probably 5. When it came time to wrestle, his son was crying uncontrollably in fear. The father kept coaxing him to get on the mat. It was three or four minutes of this huge father coaxing his little tear-filled boy to get on the mat. Finally, this little boy went to the center of the mat with tears running down his face. He shook hands with his opponent and the whistle blew. Instead of wrestling, this little kid turned and began running. He ran in circles around the edge mat to stay away from his opponent. After a while it was obvious, unlike his dad, this boy did not want to wrestle. Making him wrestle was discouraging him. The good news, it is obvious this kid had a future in track. Don't expect your kids to be you.

5. **Parenting by rules instead of relationship discourages children.** This is setting rules for our kids but being eager to discipline when rules are broken instead of understanding why rules were broken. For example, let's say you have a curfew of 10:30 p.m. on a Friday night. If one of your children came home at 10:35, rule-based parenting would mean an instant grounding. Relational-based parenting means you ask why he was late. Maybe you learn your son was shuttling other kids home and due to unforeseen

circumstances, he was held up. Relational-based parenting means your son or daughter gives you a call if he or she is going to be late. She doesn't feel like she has to speed like Mario Andretti to get home to shave one or two minutes off her arrival time and avoid a grounding. Relational-based parenting is better than rule-based parenting. Do we still have rules? Yes! We apply those rules in a relationship.

6. **Not repenting of my own sin discourages my children.** Every parent needs to say "I was wrong." We need to model humility and repentance. If we want our kids to think we are always right, we aren't teaching them what to do when they aren't right. We need to be able to say, "I disciplined you wrong. Daddy shouldn't have yelled. Mommy shouldn't have flown off the handle. Please forgive me." This teaches our kids we are not perfect. It teaches them what to do when they are not perfect. It teaches them to extend grace to you so they learn to extend grace to others.

## Conclusion

As we wrap up, I want to leave you parents with two thoughts.

1. **Children are our responsibility.** It is not the school, church or government's responsibility to raise our children. They are our responsibility. Nobody will care for your children more than you do. Our greatest responsibility is not to get our kids to recreational sports at the YMCA. It is not to get them involved in extracurricular activities in school. It is to teach them about Jesus in our home, not just take them to church. This is what the Bible teaches us.

**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. Deuteronomy 6:6–7 (ESV)

2. **Children are our blessing.** Psalm 127:3 tells us that children are a blessing from the Lord. Children, no matter what you may feel about yourself, every single one of you is a blessing from God. You are a special blessing to your mom and dad. Mom and Dad, even when there are days your kids feel like more of a burden than a blessing, remember they are a blessing.



Dr. Kurt Trucksess is ordained in the Evangelical Free Church of America. He enjoys reading, writing, time with his family and wrestling with his sons. His favorite topics are preaching and ancient rhetoric. Feel free to contact him at [www.Christ2RCulture.com](http://www.Christ2RCulture.com) ([www.c2rc.com](http://www.c2rc.com))

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