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# Parenting With Joy

The Grace & Growth of Doing Things God’s Way

## Gospel-Powered Parenting

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Peter LaRuffa, May. 1, 2011

**\*\*\* REVISED Bulletin Outline \*\*\***

What are the missing pieces to our parenting puzzle that will make ours uniquely “Christian?”

### 1. Fear-based / Defensive Parenting

The uniquely Christian aspect of our parenting is not all about how much we can protect our kids from outside influences.

### 2. Behavior Tactics & Fixes

It’s important, and helpful, and a blessing to have well-behaved kids... but there’s nothing uniquely Christian about well-behaved children. The world’s got them, too.

**The battle for our children is not primarily fought on the outside. It’s a matter of the heart.**

“A change in behavior that does not proceed from the heart is not commendable, it’s condemnable.”

*Shepherding a Child’s Heart* by Ted Tripp, p.5

“Morality is important, but it follows faith. It does not produce it.”

*Gospel-Powered Parenting* by William P. Farley, p.42

## Christian parenting is all about “the baton pass.”

- Deut. 6:6,7 “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. **You shall teach them diligently to your children...**”
- Deut. 11:19 **“You shall teach them diligently to your children,** speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”
- Psa. 78:4 “...but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders he has done.”

## Christian parenting must be Gospel-powered or it is not uniquely Christian.

How we view God determines how we parent our children. Gospel-powered parenting is a commitment to parent my children in the way God parents me.

- Heb. 4:15 “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every way was tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

“If there’s anything in life that we should be passionate about, it’s the gospel. And I don’t mean passionate only about sharing it with others. I mean passionate in thinking about it, dwelling on it, rejoicing in it, allowing it to color the way we look at the world. Only one thing can be of first importance to each of us. And only the gospel ought to be.”

The Cross-Centered Life by CJ Mahaney, p.20-21

Our goal in parenting is to please Him in the **process** of passing the baton of faith to our children. How they run with it...and if they run with it...is between them and our Sovereign God.

- 1 Cor. 3:5-9 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, **but God gave the growth.** So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but **only God who gives the growth.** He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. **For we are God’s fellow workers.** You are God’s field, God’s building.

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### Questions for Discussion and/or Personal Reflection:

1. In recent days, have you been regarding parenting as a burden or a blessing?
2. How much stock do you put in your parenting methods, philosophies, and practices?
3. How often do you think about and reflect upon the truth of the Gospel, and who you are in Christ?
4. How does your parenting demonstrate an active dependence on the grace of God? Are you content to please Him with your parenting process and entrust the product to Him?