

Parenting for Life: Motivations, Focus, and Balance

I. Parenting as a Calling

a. Why might it be helpful to understanding our parenting as a calling?

b. Assurance of Calling, Access to Promises

i. Assurance of Calling

1. 1 Samuel 2:8 | Psalm 115:3

ii. Access to Promises

1. 2 Corinthians 1:20-22 | John 13:1 | Ephesians 3:14-19

“Thus therefore [the knowledge of the love of Christ] suits and answers a Christian’s condition, while in this world, let that be what it will. If his afflictions be broad, here is a breadth; if they be long, here is a length; and if they be deep, here is a depth; and if they be high, here is a height. And I will say, there is nothing that is more helpful, succouring, or comfortable to a Christian...than to know that there is a breadth to answer a breadth, a length to answer a length, a depth to answer a depth, and a height to answer a height.” (John Bunyan, *All Loves Excelling*, pg. 7)

2. Psalm 102:25-28 | Hebrews 13:20-21

II. The Parent’s Challenges

a. Motivations

i. What things – right, wrong, indifferent – motivate us in parenting?

ii. Right Motivation: Pleasing God

1. 2 Corinthians 5:9-10 | 2 Timothy 2:3-4

2. In what ways does parenting well glorify God?

iii. Wrong Motivation: Pleasing Ourselves, Others

1. What might parenting to please ourselves, or others, look like?

iv. Application: Trust vs. Fear

1. Psalm 9:9-10 | Matthew 6:31-34 | 1 John 4:13-18

b. Focus

i. Christian Parenting is not complicated – but it’s also not easy

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (Mark 12:30) | Ephesians 6:4

ii. Christian Parenting is more flexible than rigid

1. What are some types of decisions where faithful Christians will differ in their parenting?

2. Principles and Methods

- a. Beware: Judging Principles by Methods

- b. Beware: Judging People by their Methods

iii. Christian Parenting focuses on the long-term

1. Proverbs 22:6 | 2 Corinthians 3:18

“If you walk down the hallway mad because your children need correction again, you’re mad because at that moment they need what every human being constantly needs: a parent’s care.” (Tripp, Paul David. Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family, pg 37)

c. Balance

- i. Major (heart issues) vs. Minor (developmental issues)