

# PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY, PART-2



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## PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY PART-2

Your parents' **behavior**, not their  
advice, determined whether or not  
you want to be **like** them or **with** them.

## PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Your parents' behavior  
**determined** how much  
**respect** you had or  
have for them.

- If there is no respect there is no influence.
- Your behavior will determine the amount of respect you will have with them.

# PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

REAL

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IDEAL

- Just because I had a parent doesn't mean I know anything about being one.
- Just because I was a kid doesn't mean I know anything about raising one.
- Last time we talked about how Jesus navigated in the real while still pointing to the ideal.
- About how he never dumbed down the truth to make people feel better.
- He pointed to the ideal and gave people something to aspire to but he also never turned down the grace when they fell short.
- People liked Jesus and they flocked to Him. Jesus liked them as well.
- The only group Jesus didn't like were those that shared the ideal but did nothing to help people when they fell short.

## PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

“Woe to you, because you  
load people down with  
burdens they can hardly carry,  
and you yourself will not lift  
one finger to help them.”

Luke 11:46

- Jesus was firmly planted in real, while still pointing to ideal.

## PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Jesus was **all**  
grace and **all**  
truth **all** the time.

- Jesus and the authors of the New Testament pointed the way forward for all of us, especially parents.
- Even though Jesus did not teach about parenting directly he laid the foundation for New Testament parenting when He laid down the foundation of New Testament behavior.
- And remember Jesus never dumbed down the truth to make us feel better about ourselves,
- and he never turned down the grace.
- That's the kind of Christian and person I want to be. I want to live like Jesus but I know I'll fall short of His truth and need His grace so I should share His truths and provide grace to others.
- Truth without grace creates pretenders and hypocrites.
- Grace without truth creates a permissive kind of faith that hurts everyone in the end
- Grace and truth as personified by Jesus is powerful.....

# PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

## The Law of Christ

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To Love others  
as Jesus Loved us

Jesus's new commandment....

- Following Jesus will make your life better and make you better at life.
- Following Jesus will make you a better parent because the core of being a Jesus follower is an ethic of others first.
- An ethic of selflessness.
- And nothing surfaces our self-centeredness quicker and fiercer than raising another human being.
- A human being that comes into the world with one agenda.

# PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

What's in it for **me**?

I want **my** way!

- And if I can't get my way, I'm going to get in your way and make your life miserable.
- So it's has the possibility for setting up a clash of wills of epic proportion.
- A clash of wills that has the potential to bring out;

# PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Fear

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Insecurity

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Anger

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Ugly

- The most shame that he has ever felt as an adult is related to his self centeredness response, “where did that come from?” to my own kids.
- So here is the thing, in the eventual conflict of will with my kids, associated with parenting that where the core ethic and values of Jesus actually becomes more relevant than ever because insecurity, anger and fear. What are those but manifestations of self preservations and reputation preservation on our part that fuel the very behavior that drives a wedge between us and our children.
- Behaviors that causes us to lose influence when they are old enough for us to have lost control. In fact one of the reasons it’s so much easier to know how other people should raise their kids is because their kids behavior doesn’t reflect poorly on us.
- Our kids behavior points directly back to us. And our response, this is so important, our response says a great deal about who and what we are most concerned about. And when we get it right, when we are able to keep our ego and pride in check, when we are able to respond out of concern for our kids rather than how our kids behavior reflects on us. Our response has the potential to create not only teachable moments but defining moments.

## PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Where I stood in  
relationship to my  
father's desire to  
**protect his  
reputation.**

- Our reputation is important and we should protect it.
- Our children are important and we should take care of them.
- It's things we value and in life we are constantly prioritizing our values and our children are watching.
- And they are experiencing how we prioritize our values and how we prioritize them.
- And one misguided response or comment has the power to undo a lot of affirmations.

# PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

A **defining**  
moment is  
better than a  
**teachable**  
moment.

- A defining moment is so much better than a teachable moment. We love teachable moments as a parent but defining moments are so much better, but they are so easy to miss when our ego is not in check. When our reputation is on the line.
- What we do and how we behave when our ego is on the line leaves a mark, for good or for bad.
- One thing to never do is make your kids the center of the family. Don't put your kids in the center and change the family dynamics.

## PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

You were already a family  
**before** you had children.

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They are simply a **welcome  
addition** to something that  
already existed.

- This is so important!! The gravitational pull is for our children to become the center of the family and that is a mistake.
- They are a welcome addition don't make them the main act.

## PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

I will not do anything  
for you if it's not  
good for you,  
because I love you.

- Jesus did not use his leverage with and as God to His advantage. And if He did it we should as well.
- Jesus kept his ego in check and placed others needs before his own.
- But the apostle Paul came along years later and defined what the Jesus brand of love looks like in the real world in real relationships: here's how love behaved, here's how love behaved under pressure, here's how love behaves at home, here's how love behaves when you raising children.

# PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

## One Another

- Paul provides this in all of his letters.
- All of his one another statements in his letters provide, forgive one another, encourage one another, carry one another, submit to one another, these are all applications of Jesus's new covenant and command.

# PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Love is...

- Paul's best description on how love should behave at home.
- Jesus brand of love:
  - Others first
  - Sacrificial love
  - Tough love
  - If you hate me so be it love

# PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Love is **patient**.

1 Corinthians 13:4

- You don't babysit, you parent.
- Means you have to slow down and operate at somebody else's pace. That what love requires of us as parents.
- Because love isn't pushy, it's patient.
- It requires us to move at someone else's pace rather than requiring them to move at ours.
- The reason that this is so hard is that patience is not natural to us. Your natural pace is natural.
- Paul's point is since God moved at our pace, we are to do the same for others and we are to do the same for our children.
- If not what happens??

# PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

## Separate

- If we don't slow down to our children's pace what happens.
- We separate ourselves from our children. Physically when we're walking and emotionally, relationally, we push them beyond their capacity.
- We separate and frustrate.
- The only thing that Paul says about parenting and it's direct to fathers and I'm sure it's not by accident.

## PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Fathers, do not  
exasperate your  
children....

Colossians 3:21

- Don't provoke them, stir them up.
- Don't insist on winning or always being right.
- Out talking, out smarting.
- Don't push too hard or move too fast.
- If you do, here's the end result, you'll be separated (move to next slide)

## PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Fathers, do not  
exasperate your  
children, or they will  
become **discouraged**.

Colossians 3:21

- They will become dishearten. They'll lose interest. They'll just stop because they can't keep up.
- Again what will it lead to? Separation.
- How did Paul know? And it isn't surprising he didn't relay this to moms and dads, just dads. Just fathers.
- So, love is patient.
- But, if I don't push my kids they may not turn out.

## PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

They may not turn  
out the way **you**  
want **them** to turn  
out.

- They may not become what you want them to become. Is that what you really want?
- Wouldn't it be better to discover what they were born to do? What they were born to be and then facilitate that.
- That's what great parents do. They inspire their kids. They motivate them they don't push them to near exhaustion and frustration. Comparing and shaming is about you and your expectations not your kids.
- That only pushes them away and they end up not having positive relationships with their parents later in life.
- Do you know what is the number one predictor of relational and professional success?

# PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

## Self-Awareness

- Self –awareness is the cousin to emotional intelligence. Which results in personal security versus insecurity.
- And do you know what's the number 1 contributing factor to an individuals personal security, self-awareness and EQ? Their home life.

# PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Love is **patient**.

1 Corinthians 13:4

- Love is not pushy.
- Love doesn't exasperate.
- Love doesn't drive a wedge.
- Love doesn't allow ego and reputation to dictate the tone and the pace of the relationship.
- Love picks up on someone else's natural pace and rhythm and adjusts their pace and rhythm according.
- And love because of patience, maintains influence all along the way.
- Love is patient.

## PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

- Who feels rushed by you?
- Who feels un-necessary maybe even unhealthy pressure when you walk into their room? When you walk through the front door?
- Who are you driving away in a effort to bring out their best?
- What would it require from you to adjust your pace to theirs?\*

# PARENTING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

## Things to consider before our next session.

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–6. • Which of these characteristics of love stands out to you? Why? • Who do you know that represents these characteristics of love well?  
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- A parent's behavior (not advice) determines if their child wants to be like them or with them once they are free to choose for themselves. Does that statement resonate with you more as a parent or as a son/ daughter?  
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- Parenting has the potential to bring out the ego in us, the fear in us, the insecurity in us, the anger in us and the ugly in us. Which one of those do you relate to most?  
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- Where did your parents fall on the “Patient-to-Pushy” continuum? Did either parent "exasperate" you in their effort to get you to excel?  
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- Where do you fall on the “Patient-to-Pushy” continuum? In your marriage? With your kids? At work?  
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