

THE FACTS OF LIFE: PARENTS AND PROPHETS

Isaiah 55:6-13

REVIEW OF LAST WEEK

Parenting from the perspective of worldview:

WHERE DO BABIES COME FROM? Children are a possession of God, entrusted to the care of parents. Therefore, parents must learn what God says about how they are raised.

WHY DO CHILDREN DISOBEY?

While different answers have been given to this most important question, the answer is as old as Adam and Eve: Children are disobedient because they are conceived sinners.

WHAT IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL FOR CORRECTING A CHILD'S MISBEHAVIOR?

Your goal for your children is not ultimately that they obey you, but that they obey God from the heart (Ephesians 6:4).

I. PARENTING: THE CHANGING WORDS OF MEN AND THE UNCHANGING WORD OF GOD

A. The Gospel of parenting according to Watson:

1. Dr. John B. Watson was a psychologist and founder of the psychological school of "behaviorism." At one point in his career, Watson was the most prominent figure in psychology in the United States.
2. In 1928 Watson published the book, *The Psychological Care of the Infant and Child*. In this book, Watson wrote, "Mother love is a dangerous instrument which may inflict a never-healing wound, a wound which may make infancy unhappy, adolescence a nightmare, an instrument which may wreck your adult son or daughter's vocational future and chances for marital happiness."
3. Dr. Watson's granddaughter, Mariette Hartley was raised according to her grandfather's principles and from early childhood she suffered from emotional problems.

B. The parenting Bible according to Spock:

1. Back in the 1940s, Dr. Benjamin Spock came along with his book *Baby and Child Care*.
2. Spock's book became a bestseller, in large part, because his ideas on child-rearing directly opposed those of Dr. John B. Watson.
3. Spock's "Bible" is a Bible without any Gospel. It is a Bible without the One true God. It is a Bible that doesn't give the right answers to the ultimate questions of life and parenting.

Parents, to whom are you going to entrust your children ...the words of men or the Word of God?

- C. In contrast to the bibles of men that come and go, God's Bible has been around for thousands of years, and it is still just as relevant for raising children today as it was generations ago (Psalm 119:89, 152; Isa.40:8; Matt.5:18).

II. BIBLICAL & UNBIBLICAL GAME PLANS FOR CORRECTING DISOBEDIENT CHILDREN.

- A. Uncontrolled yelling is an unbiblical way of asserting your God-given authority as a parent (Prov.16:32; 29:11,20).
- B. The reason some parents resort to yelling is because they do not follow through on what they said the first time. Parents, if you aren't training your children to do something the first time you say to, you are training them to do it the second, the third, the fourth, and so on.
- C. Parents, it is imperative for you to follow up the first time after you say something and you are sure that your child has heard you – "Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'" (Matthew 5:37).

- D. Parenting is related to our being made in the image of God. Parents, you are prophets, priests, and kings in your home.
- E. When a parent does not follow through on a threat, guess what? The parent is a false prophet. One of the characteristics of a prophet is that what they say comes true (1 Samuel 3:19; 9:6; 1 Kings 18:29).
- F. It is the responsibility of loving parents to establish boundaries and limits for their children. Parents have the God given authority to law down the law for their children. Children need to learn that freedom does not come from doing what they want. True freedom comes from obedience (Gen.2:17; Ps.119:96; Matt.11:28-30).
- G. For better or for worse, parents are a living example to children of what God is like (Psalm 103:13).

III. COVENANT COMMITMENT: GOD’S CALL TO OBEDIENCE & CHANGE (Exodus 19:7,8; 24:3,7; Deuteronomy 5:27; Joshua 24:24; Psalm 41:13; 72:19; 89:52; 106:48; Nehemiah 10:28,29)

A. *Is Jesus Christ the **Lord** of your life? (Romans 10:9)*

- ✓ Have you ever confessed your sins to Jesus Christ?
- ✓ Have you ever made the conscious commitment to submit to Him as the Lord of your life?
- ✓ Have you ever verbally said something like, “All that the Lord has spoken I will do!” or “I will serve the Lord God and I will obey His voice”?

B. For those of you who have confessed the Lordship of Jesus Christ, God calls you this morning to respond to His Word by saying verbally or in your heart,

- ✓ “AMEN!” (Psalm 72:19)
- ✓ “All that the Lord has spoken we will do!” (Exodus 19:7,8)
- ✓ “We will serve the Lord our God and we will obey His voice.” (Joshua 24:24)

What is the LORD requiring you to say “AMEN” to today?

- ✓ Children are a possession of God, entrusted to the care of parents. God is calling you to make His Word central in your parenting and to forsake the foolishness of unbiblical worldviews about parenting.
- ✓ Your goal for your children is not ultimately that they obey you, but that they obey God from the heart. The Bible says that we are to bring our children up in the discipline and instruction *of the Lord* (Eph.6:4).
- ✓ God is calling you to repent of your unbiblical ways of parenting and to faithfully image Him. God is calling you to follow up with your children the first time you say something. “Let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’” (Matthew 5:37).
- ✓ The Lord requires of you this morning nothing more than He required when you were converted: Obedience to His Word. With God’s command comes the power to fulfill that command through the Holy Spirit.

QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer for yourself, your family, the church and/or your nation. Remember that prayer consists in Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (Feel free to use the outline for praying).

What is ultimately wrong with the parenting advice of people like Dr. Spock and Dr. Laura? Can these “experts” be right about some things?

What happens to children who are raised according to the latest scientific finding?

Parents, whom are you going to entrust your children to...the words of men or the Word of God?

Why is uncontrolled yelling an unbiblical way of asserting your God given authority as a parent?

Yelling is a type of training. What are you teaching your children when you fall into the habit of “loud and louder?” What are you teaching your children when you have to tell them to do something more than once?

How is parenting related to being made in the image of God?

How is this sermon going to change the way you raise your children?

How could you use this sermon to offer practical and helpful advice to frazzled parents who are your relatives, friends, co-workers, etc.?

Prepared by Pastor Aaron Goerner (2/03/2002). See Dt.33:8-10; Ezra 7:10; Malachi 2:7; Acts 17:11; Col.1:28,29; 1 Tim.4:12-16.
Questions/Comments? Website: ChristChurchReformed.com; Email: christchurch@christchurchreformed.com