

The Goal of Parenting

TGI Biblical Counseling and Discipleship Class



The Goal of Parenting

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Cultural Definitions of a Parent

1. Noun - One who begets, gives birth to, or nurtures and raises a child; a father or mother. (Yahoo Education)
2. Noun - A father or mother; he or she that produces young. (Webster's 1828)
3. *A family is love. Love that you feel for yourself. An individual living alone is therefore a family...if they feel love for their 'self'. Thus an individual and its 'self' in love is a family.*

Cultural Definitions of Parenting

Verb

1. To act as a parent to; raise and nurture
2. To cause to come into existence; originate. (Yahoo Education)
3. The duties of parents to their children are to **maintain, protect and educate them** (Webster's 1828, emphasis mine)

Cultural Definitions of Parenting

1. Parenting (or **child rearing**) is the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Parenting refers to the aspects of raising a child aside from the biological relationship.
2. The goals of human parenting are debated. Usually, parental figures provide for a child's physical needs, protect them from harm, and impart in them skills and cultural values until they reach legal adulthood, usually after adolescence. (Wikipedia)

Re-defining Parenting and Family

1. Understanding parenting begins with understanding the family.
2. Understanding the family begins with understanding marriage.
3. Understanding marriage and family must begin with understanding the origin and purpose of human life, i.e. a biblical anthropology.

Biblical Anthropology

Reflector (made *in the image of God*)

Relational being (vertical, internal, horizontal, external)

Receiver (needing God's ***Special Revelation***)

Reasoning being (Logical, rational, considering)

Responder – a worshiper by nature (capable of awe/fear, love, obedience, work/service)

Righteous (pure, without sin, Gen.2:25)

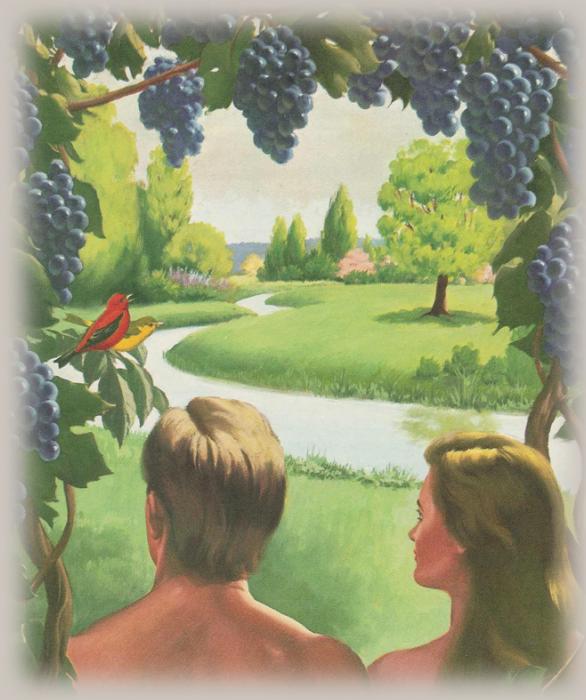
Reliant being (dependent, NOT AUTONOMOUS)

Ruler (a “***Dominion-haver***”) (Gen.1:28)

Representative (Ambassador) (2 Cor.5:14-21)

Purpose of Life

1. Intelligent, but incomplete; never intended to understand himself or his world **apart from God's Special Revelation**
 2. Adam didn't know ...
 - a. His Identity **(Who am I?)**
 - b. His beginning **(O. Origin)**
 - c. His Purpose **(M. Meaning)**
 - d. How to live **(E. Ethics)**
 - e. His future **(G. Going)**
 - f. God **(A. Authority)**
 - g. His Needs **(what do I NEED?)**



Special Revelation and the Family

1. Before sin, Adam didn't know and was incapable of knowing vital, profound truths about himself and his world apart from God's Special Revelation, because he was _____
2. Because of the Fall, children are depraved from birth, incapable of seeing, understanding, knowing, discerning basic truths of life.
3. The family is God's primary training/teaching institution to provide the discipleship-environment to transfer biblical truth from one generation to the next.

Goal #1 – Culture of Discipleship

1. Providing stability and security through a male-female, one-flesh, covenant-relationship to create a loving environment and visually demonstrate the character of God.
2. A daily “classroom” to foster loving relationships
3. Guards against the break-up of the family.
4. Shaping the next generation with the truths from Special Revelation that which cannot be learned from General Revelation.

The family is God's primary venue to train and instruct hearts to worship their Creator.

Goal #2 – Discipling the Next Generation

Discipleship is whole-person teaching and training to know and follow Christ. (Matt. 28:19-20; Lu. 6:40; 1 Jn. 2:6)

1. Physically – providing, training, developing
2. Emotionally – modeling, shaping & teaching
3. Relationally – modeling intimacy (koinonia), care & concern; teaching, nurturing, admonishing
4. Mentally – cognitive training & instructing, modeling
5. Spiritually – shepherding a heart of worship

Without structured nurturing and disciplined training, children become more efficient self-worshippers.

Goal #2 – Discipling the Next Generation

Adam as a perfect man needed to be taught basic existential truths from special revelation ...

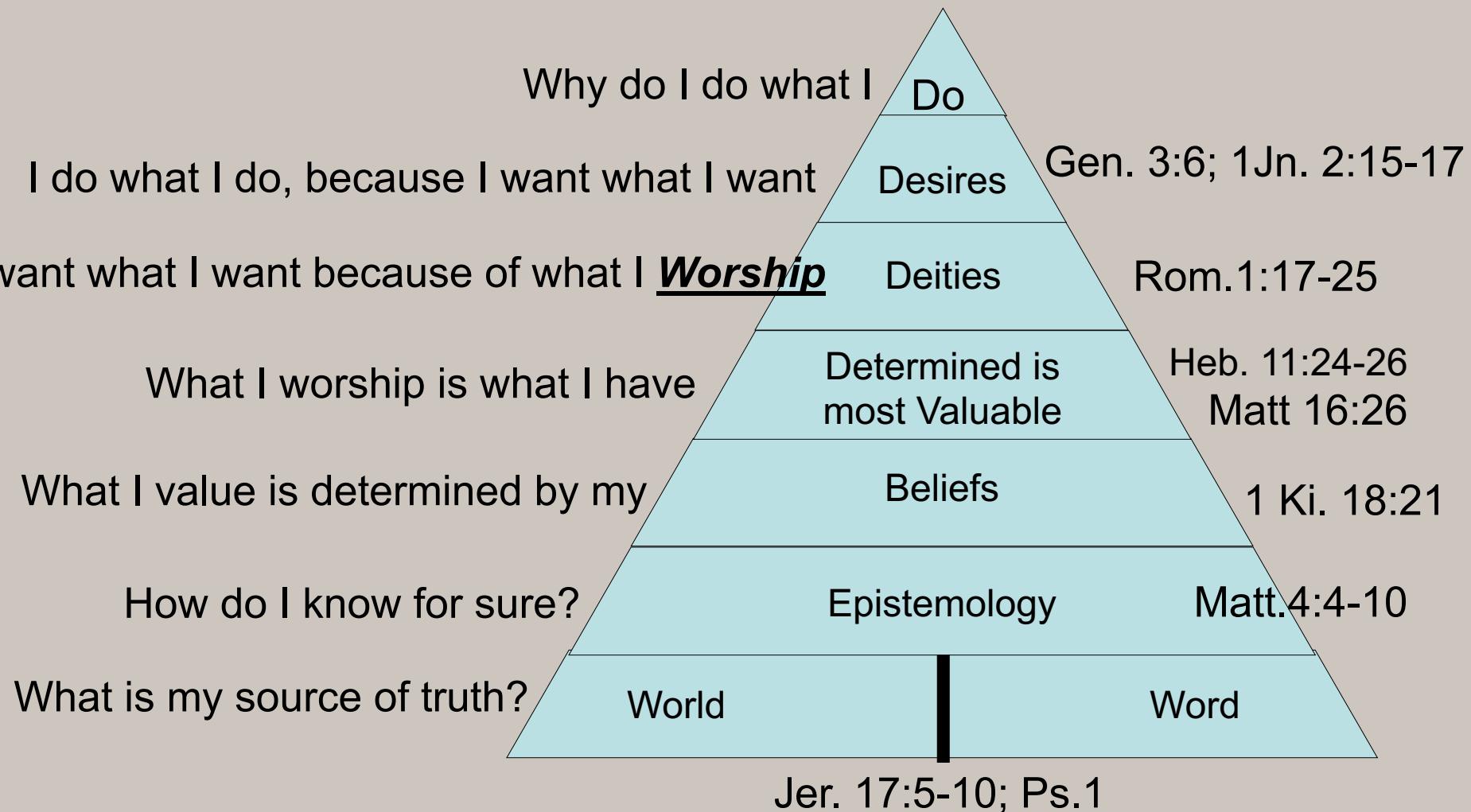
1. His identity
2. His beginning..... origins
3. His purpose in life... meaning
4. How to live..... ethics
5. His future..... where I'm going when I die
6. His..... Authority
7. His Needs

Your children will be ruined if they don't get this!!

Parental goals and responsibilities haven't changed
since the beginning! You much TEACH!

Goal #2 – Discipling Gets to the Heart

Idolatry thrives without heart-transformation



Goal #2 – Discipling Five Essential Doctrines

Parental goals are the same as the First Parents!

Consistently teaching children, training disciples and developing worshippers in (but not limited to) the following key doctrines:

1. T. Theology (view of God)
2. E. Epistemology (source of Truth)
3. A. Anthropology (biblical view of their nature)
4. C. Christology (knowing Christ as superior)
5. H. Hamartiology (view of sin, conviction of sin)

T.E.A.C.H. Theology

1. Who God is – Real, personal, S.H.A.L.O.M.E.
2. What God does – works, saves, comforts, blesses, forgives
3. What God says – His Truth shapes PERSPECTIVES
4. What are God's PURPOSES for His kingdom & for you/them
5. What God expects – Instructing, discipling children to LEARN from life-experiences – Shepherding a biblical RESPONSE from the HEART (Pr. 4:23)
6. F. Fear God (Deut. 6:2, 13)
7. L. Love God and others (Deut. 6:5)
8. O. Obey God, practical application of theology (Deut. 6:6, 25)
9. W. Worship God, living in Awe (Deut. 26:10)
10. S. Serve and Please God vs. self and/or others. (Deut. 6:13)

Nurturing a theological community
teaching children to worship GOD.

T.E.A.C.H. Epistemology

1. Demonstrate that God's Word is superior to man's wisdom - know your own source of truth and grow in thinking like Christ.
2. Teach discernment – shepherding a biblical, “Google-search-mindset of thinking biblically, wisely, logically.
3. Demonstrate and teach wisdom in decision-making
4. Teach how to read, memorize, study and meditate on the Bible

You must choose to learn the Truth, love the Truth and live the Truth in order to define, and teach the Truth.

Nurturing a biblical, philosophical community.

T.E.A.C.H. Anthropology

1. View of self/man/identity - made in the image of God; significant, not “special”; reflecting God’s character with dignity and purpose; God-centered, not self-centered.
2. Made of dust, but fearfully and wonderfully made.
3. No intrinsic value, but loved of God, because God chooses to LOVE, NOT because of me.
4. Called to Love God and others, NOT to love myself.

Nurturing a biblically sound **social community**,
Intentionally interacting in 4 dimensions,
vertical, internal, horizontal and external.

T.E.A.C.H. Christology

1. Make much of Christ's sinless life, perfect sacrificial death, (double imputation); the Gospel.
2. Model and teach "The 5 Love-Languages of Jesus Christ".
 - a. Self-denial – model other-focused living
 - b. Submission – model submission to authority
 - c. Service – model a willingness to serve God and others
 - d. Suffering – model cheerful suffering
 - e. Sacrifice – model self-sacrificing love
3. Strike a wise balance of grace and truth

Nurturing a Christ-centered
environment of grace, mercy and redemption.

T.E.A.C.H. Hamartiology

1. Define sin biblically - “call sin sin” (Is. 5:20)
2. Teach that God hates sin and judges sin righteously (Ps.7:11)
3. Hate sin (Ps. 97:10)
4. Confront sin (Ps. 66:18; Mt. 18:15)
5. Confess sin (Ps. 51: 1 Jn. 1:9)
6. Forgive sin (Mt. 18:23-35)
7. Don’t keep records of sins (1 Cor. 13:5)

Nurturing a **redemption community**

Admit sin, confront sin, confess sin, forgive sin.

Shepherd yourself and your children to live this way.

Identifying a Disciple

1. Disciples worship God in Spirit and Truth (Jn. 4:24).
2. Disciples do all to the Glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31).
3. Disciples desire to please God (2 Cor. 5:9; Rom. 15:1).
4. Disciples think and act *like their Master* (Lu. 6:40).
5. Disciples are growing (Col. 1:28; Eph. 4:12-14) in obedience...imitating God (Eph. 4:1-3, 5:1-3; 6:1-3).
6. Disciples are growing in their ability to make disciples (Lu.6:40).

You cannot teach your children what you don't know, believe and live.

Only disciples can make disciples!

Failure to Pursue God's Goals for the Family

Examples of parental idolatry...

I can't do that, he might throw a fit...

I want my kids to be happy...

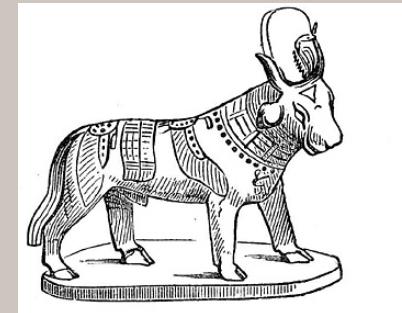
They shouldn't have to do that...

I don't' have time for this...

It's just a phase, it will pass...

I want her to have a good time, be popular...

I just want him to have friends...



Failure to Pursue God's Goals for the Family

Fosters idolatry in the children

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all **ungodliness** and **unrighteousness** of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.
(Rom. 1:18-19)



Failure to Pursue God's Goal for the Family

And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the LORD had done for Israel...Joshua..., the servant of the LORD, died...And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel. And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger. They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. (Jud 2:7-13)

Defining Successful Parenting

1. Success is defined by your obedience
2. Success is not determined by outcomes
3. You can always choose to obey, even when/if your child does not.
4. The perfect parent, in a perfect Garden had wayward children...what causes you to expect that your children should be or might turn out the way you want them to?

Child-Centered Home	God-Centered Home
<p>Teaches a child to be an effective idolater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Interrupt adults talking *Use manipulation and rebellion to get their way *Dictate the family schedule *Take precedence over spouse's needs *Have equal or overriding votes *Demand excessive time or attention *Escape the consequences of sinful and irresponsible behavior *Speak to parents as though peers *Be the dominant influence in the home *Be entertained or coddled out of a bad mood *The child perceives that the entire family (and world) exists to please him and make him happy. 	<p>Nurtures a culture that trains a child to Worship, Glorify & Please God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Knows the joy of serving others *Cheerfully obeys the first time *Doesn't interrupt or badger parents for attention *Doesn't manipulate others *Knows they won't always get their way *Works their schedule around parents' schedules *Has input into decisions, but not an equal vote *Understands parents have other God-given responsibilities *Suffers natural consequences for sinful and irresponsible behavior *Honors parents as their God-given authorities *Esteems others more important than selves *Fulfills household duties/chores without grumbling *Protects themselves from bad influences *Doesn't divide parents on disciplinary issues *Is not allowed to be more intimate with either parent than the parents are with each other *Perceives that the husband is the head of the family and the wife is submissive to her husband *Knows that the parents relationship is primary