

biblical purpose for parenting

The parent's _____

1. Commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt 22:37-40)
 - The Word of God (2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:3-4)
 - The God of the Word (Luke 14:25-35; 2 Cor 5:9; Phil 1:21)
2. Commitment to your spouse
 - Committed to the uniqueness of the marriage relationship (Gen 2:24; Mal 2:13-16; Prov 5:15-19; Eph 5:22-33)
 - Committed to your biblical roles (1 Cor 11; Eph 5:22-33; 1 Pet 3:1-7)
3. Commitment to your family
 - We are stewards of the truth about the one true God and His works (Deut 6:1-9)
 - We are also stewards of blessings (Rom 8:16; 1 Pet 3:7; Ps 127:3a, 5a; 128:3)
4. Commitment to others
 - The church
 - The world

The parent's _____

1. God's view of man
 - Man is NOT inherently good
 - Man is inherently evil (Rom 3:10-11)
2. God's directions to parents (Eph 6:4)
 - Take the initiative to continuously bring up children to maturity – this entails hard and persevering work
 - Bring children up to maturity with discipline (Prov 1:4; 7:7; 13:24; 15:5; 19:18; 22:3; 23:13, 14; 29:15; Gal 6:7; Col 3:20)
 - Bring children up to maturity with instruction (Prov 1:7; Deut 6:1-9; Ps 19:7; Prov 22:6; 2 Tim 3:16-17; Heb 4:12; Ecc 12:13-14)

The parent's _____

1. Keeping the right motivation
 - Pleasing God vs. pleasing self (Num 20:8-13; 1 Cor 10:31; 2 Cor 5:9; James 1:25)
 - Pleasing God vs. pleasing others (Gal 1:10; Col 3:22; 2 Cor 10:12)
 - Trust vs. fear (Prov 3:5-8; 1 John 4:16-18; Job 42:2; 1 Cor 4:2)
2. Keeping the right focus
 - Biblical parenting is not complicated
 - Biblical parenting allows a variety of ways to apply biblical truth (Gal 5:13; Rom 14:19)
 - Biblical parenting does not involve “quick fixes”
 - Biblical parenting understands the limitations of parental influence (Phil 1:6; Ezek 18; Rom 14:12)
3. Keeping the right balance
 - External and internal (Matt 5 & 6; 23:23-24, 27-28) – majoring on controlling the child’s behavior without using Scripture and prayer to deal with his heart
 - Freedom and responsibility (Gal 5:13-14; 1 Pet 2:16) – giving too much freedom on one hand with no balancing restrictions and responsibilities on the other
 - Friendship and authority – balancing our friendship with our children and our authority over them
 - Major issues and minor issues (Matt 23:23-24) – being overbearing on issues that are not clearly biblical
 - Parenting as the sole focus of the Christian life and parenting as an important aspect of the Christian life – keeping in mind that we are more than parents

Recommended Resources

1. *The Faithful Parent*, Martha Peace & Stuart Scott
2. *Shepherding a Child’s Heart*, Tedd Tripp
3. *Age of Opportunity*, Paul David Tripp
4. *The Fulfilled Family: God’s Design for Your Home*, John MacArthur