



A Gospel Vision of Parenting

Week 1

Parenting Is Ministry



- ☞ You are called, or appointed, for this ministry!
- ☞ You need an iron-clad vision of redemption that can weather the storms of day-in, day-out moments
- ☞ God parents us in the midst of parenting!



The Ministry of Parenting

- ❧ **Vision:** Requires a right vision = a call to ministry
- ❧ **Commitment:** Requires a willingness to do what it takes to fulfill your calling
 - ❧ Radical examples: (1) request job demotion so that you can get to know & raise your children; (2) to turn down a job transfer because rooted in great redemptive relationships
- ❧ **Training:** Requires equipping to prepare & mobilize parents to carry out their ministry

(Paul Tripp)

Parents & Children: Created the Same

- ☞ With minds to know & understand life with God & others
- ☞ With hearts & souls to worship & relate to God & others
- ☞ With strength to serve God & others




AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' "The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

(Mark 12:30-31)

Forgetting the Sameness

- ❧ Why do we tend to forget our kids are the same as us?
 - ❧ *For all people are mine to judge—both parents and children alike. And this is my rule: The person who sins is the one who will die (Ezek. 18:4)*
- ❧ Why do the temper tantrums, blatant disrespect, selfish and ungrateful attitudes, and different tastes sidetrack us from the big picture?
- ❧ Do we tend to be distracted in a similar way with our spouses, family members, neighbors, and co-workers?



What tends to be your goals or desires in the craziness of parenting?

Goals: _____

Desires: _____





**What are your greatest struggles
in parenting?**

Answers:

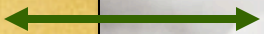
The Goal for Parenting

Helping Your Child Live Out God's Call to Love

Relating to God



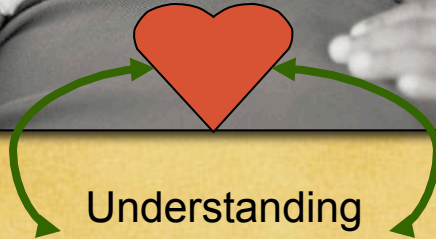
Relating to Others
within the Family



Relating to Others
outside the Family



Understanding
Self & Heart



Living Life in God's World



The Importance of Family



- ❧ What reasons do you generally hear for why family is important?
- ❧ The family is “God’s primary learning community ... [and] provides the most consistent, comprehensive context to teach children a distinctly biblical perspective on life” (Tripp, *Age of Opportunity*, 51, 53)
- ❧ Parents are His primary instrument for learning and loving--we are to know our “students,” our children
- ❧ Siblings and other family also play a role in God’s teachers



The Call to Love Starts with Us as Parents

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (Deut. 6:4-7)

Children Are Always Watching & Learning

Parents need to understand their own hearts first as a man & woman of God, then as husband & wife, before they can be effective parents for the Gospel.

Relating to Others
inside & outside
the Home

Relating to God
While Living in His World



Relating to Others
inside & outside
the Home

Husband Understanding
Himself & His Heart

Wife Understanding
Herself & Her Heart

Relating to
One Another
as Husband &
Wife

OJT: Life Learning



- ☞ God's truth can and should be taught in the teachable moments of life
- ☞ Family worship is good, but not enough. God teaches us so much in the everyday happenings of life.



**What gets in the way of
teaching and living out the
gospel in everyday life?**

Besides not even thinking about it

Typical Parenting Idols: Comfort



- ❧ We desire life to be a resort, where we are served, do only what we want, when we want.
- ❧ We live with a sense of entitlement
- ❧ We try to live with a “peacetime” mentality

Typical Parenting Idols: Respect

- ❧ We desire respect above all.
- ❧ Every issue is an issue of respect--we turn every interaction into a pass/fail test
- ❧ We are willing to disrespect to “get respect”



Paul Tripp, *Age of Opportunity*

Typical Parenting Idols: Appreciation

- ❧ We sacrifice a lot as parents and do so much for our kids.
- ❧ We can live for our kids' appreciation and even demand it
- ❧ "I serve, you appreciate" is our motto



Typical Parenting Idols: Success



- ☞ We tend to approach parenting...
 - ☞ as if there are guarantees: $A + B = C$
 - ☞ with a sense of ownership-- their obedience is our right
- ☞ Our identity can be wrapped up in our “trophy” kids
- ☞ When our kids fail to live up to our expectations:
 - ☞ We fight against them and not for them
 - ☞ We grieve for ourselves instead of for them

Typical Parenting Idols: Control

- ☞ In the early years of parenting, it seems we are in control of everything. We enjoy the “power”
- ☞ We can parent out of fear, desiring to control our children’s world, their safety and our sanity
- ☞ We can worry and get angry & sad when our kids don’t turn out the way we dreamed



Parents, Who is in Control?

- ☞ We can either trust God, his ways & will or we can try to be God
- ☞ “Successful parenting is the rightful, God-ordained loss of control. The goal of parenting is to work ourselves out of a job [and] to raise children who were once totally dependent on us to be totally independent, mature people who, with reliance on God and proper connectedness to the Christian community, are able to stand on their own two feet” (Tripp, 36-37).

Our Idols Impact our Parenting

- ❧ We will see our kids as the enemy--they can get in the way of our comfort, they may not give us the respect or appreciation we desire, and they inhibit our success
- ❧ Our kids will be confused and be conformed to the same image we are reflecting
- ❧ Our kids won't see sacrificial love, gratitude, contentment, and humility in our lives

The Total Picture of Parenting

Parents & Child Relating to God
Individually and Together
While Living in His World

We as parents can't impart to our kids what we do not know ourselves.

Such parenting is possible by Christ's work on our behalf and through the sanctifying work of the Spirit



Relating to Others **within** the Family like Christ:

Parent--Child
Parent--Siblings
Child--Siblings
Extended Family

Relating to Others **outside** the Family Like Christ:

Neighbors
Church Family
Schoolmates & Teachers
The World



Understanding
Self & Heart

And Helping One Another to Do the Same

Parents need to understand their child's heart to guide & teach them

A Parenting Paradigm: Relating to God

Being Intimate with God by ...

- ☞ Loving Him most (Matt. 22:37)
- ☞ Trusting Him fully (Prov. 3:5)
- ☞ Fearing Him wisely (Ps. 111:10)
- ☞ Knowing & Keeping His Word (Ps. 119:9-11)
- ☞ Pleasing Him first (2 Cor. 5:9)
- ☞ Seeking Him only (Ps. 27:4, 8)
- ☞ Taking Refuge in Him (Ps. 46:1)
- ☞ Hoping in Him (Ps. 38:15)
- ☞ Finding Joy in Him (Ps. 16:11)



A Parenting Paradigm: Relating to Self

Being Rooted in Christ by ...

- ☞ Embracing an Identity from God
 - ☞ Created by God & living in His world (Gen. 1:27)
 - ☞ Called to be in a family (Jn. 1:12)
 - ☞ Defined by the Gospel--sinner saved by grace (Gal. 2:20)
- ☞ Having a Heart for God
 - ☞ Treasure Christ
 - ☞ Affections (Ps. 16:11)
 - ☞ Desires (Phil. 3:8-10)
 - ☞ Ruling Love (2 Cor. 5:14-15)
 - ☞ Tenderness--a need for Christ & His saving grace



A Parenting Paradigm: Relating to Others

Imitate Christ by ...

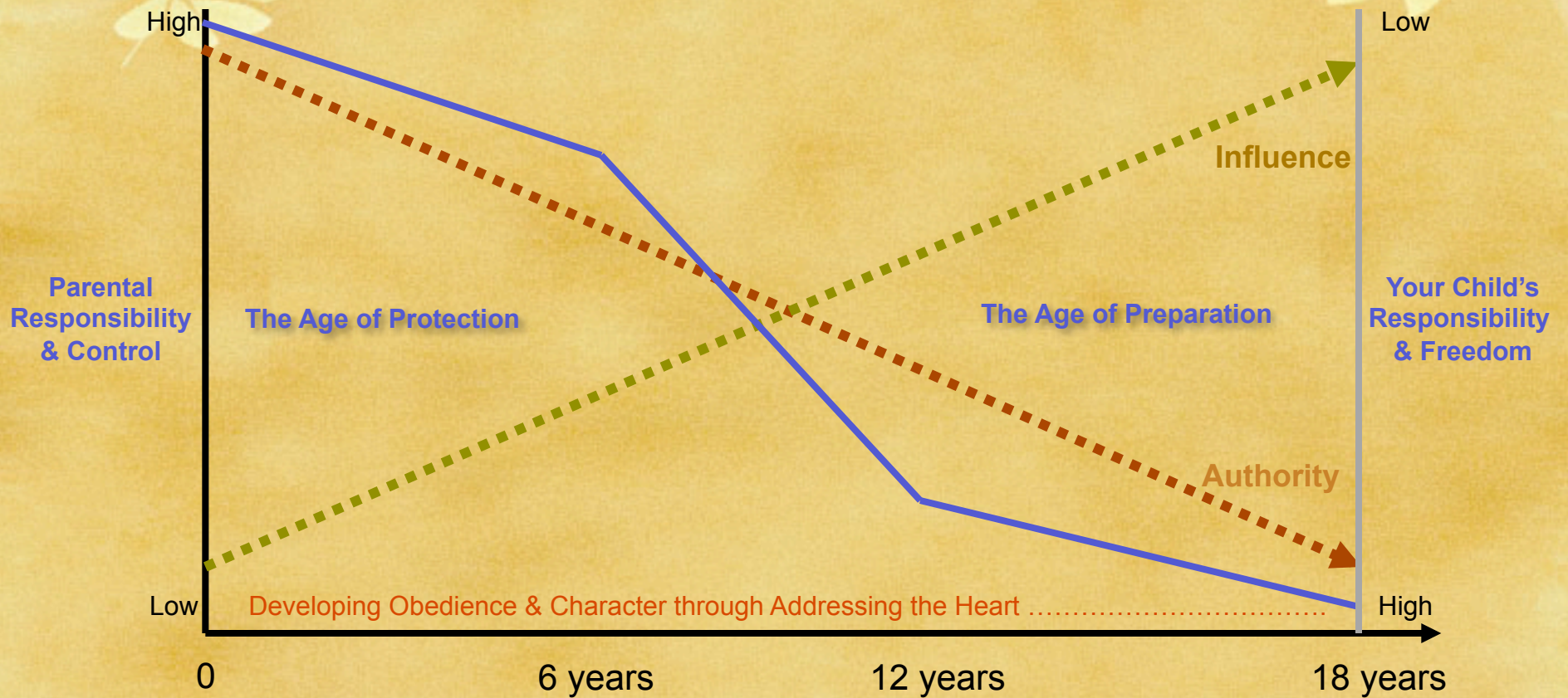
- ☞ Loving others as self
(Matt. 22:39)
- ☞ Obeying and honoring father & mother (Eph. 6:1-3)
- ☞ Considering others more important than self and not looking after own interests but for others (Phil. 2:3-5)
- ☞ Not seeking one's own (1 Cor. 13:5)



Failure to Understand the Ministry of Parenting

- ❧ You will turn moments of ministry into moments of anger.
 - ❧ You will personalize what is not personal
 - ❧ You will be adversarial in your response. Rather than “I am for you,” instead “You are against me!”
 - ❧ You will settle for quick situational solutions that don’t get to the heart of the matter--yell, punish, send to room ...
 - ❧ The “kingdom of self” manifests itself in these ways.
 - ❧ Note the direct application to the marital relationship
- (Paul Tripp)

Parenting: A Continual, Changing Journey



Authority: “denotes what might be accomplished with your child because you are stronger, faster, larger, etc.”

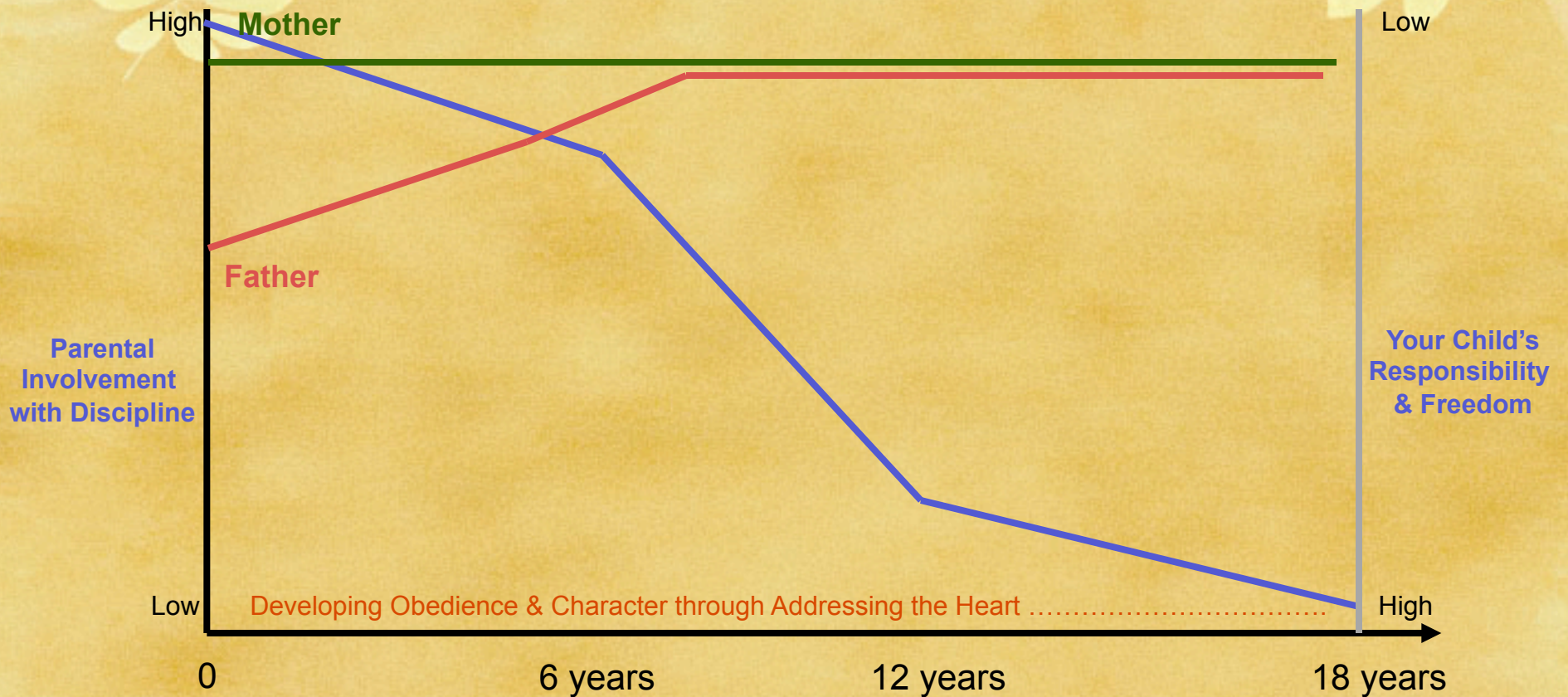
Influence: “represents the willingness of a child to place himself under authority because of trust”

(T.Tripp, *Shepherding Your Child's Heart*, 97)

Parental & Child Responsibility Graph (T. Kimmel, *Why Christian Kids Rebel*, 195)

Robert K . Cheong (April 2008)

Discipline: Same Goal, Changing Methods



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