

BIBLICAL PARENTING 101

Week 4: The Basics of Biblical Parenting (cont'd)

The Parent Who Provokes and Exasperates their Children (Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21)

- 7) **Perfectionist Parent.** Like a Pharisee (Matt. 23:4). Put demands on children they could never meet, sometimes in non-moral ways. Pressure to excel. Overly critical. Always finding fault (Prov. 19:11).
- 8) **Unloving Parent.** Cold, aloof, apathetic OR outright cruel and unkind. Make children feel unwanted. Physically present but emotional absent. No affection.
- 9) **Stingy Parent.** Lack of generosity. Never let their child do things they want. Too restrictive. Stingy with gifts, money. No special things done for the child.
- 10) **Indulgent Parent.** Spoils their children. Often afraid their child won't like them, so they give in to their demands. Too much freedom. Does not provide enough or appropriate discipline (often uses ineffective methods of discipline like 'time-out', bribery, trying to reason, etc.).
- 11) **Submissive Parent.** Roles reversed. Abdicates their authority. Encourages child to always get his way (Prov. 29:15). Let's child decide too. Thinks this is loving. Very child-centered home.
- 12) **Arbitrary/ Inconsistent Parent.** Does not maintain clear objectives and patterns, routines, or methods in parenting. Never know what the rules or consequences are. The goal posts are always changing. Never know what to expect. Can never please them.
- 13) **Uninvolved Parent.** Parents who are hands off. Doesn't really care what their children do. Too busy to have time for the kids. More important things to do. Show little interest. Let them make all their own decisions.
- 14) **Insensitive Parent.** Insensitive to a child's unique temperament/ needs, etc. Doesn't spend enough time trying to get to know and understand their children. Talks too much and doesn't listen to their children, so they don't really know them very well.
- 15) **Non-listening Parent.** Don't give children a chance to give their side of the story (Prov. 18:17) or express their own ideas. Don't allow them to speak; shame them to silence or take over conversation (Prov. 18:3). Make false assumptions about what is really going on.

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- 16) **Omniscient/ Presumptuous Parent.** Thinks he always knows what his child is thinking and doing (behind the parent's back) or assumes what his motives might be (usually assuming the worst). Only God knows our motives (1 Cor. 4:5). Jumps to conclusions (Prov. 18:13).
- 17) **Exaggerating Parent.** Overstating one's case. Assumes the best in themselves and the worst in their children. Exaggerates their own attributes and positive actions while downplaying their children's.
- 18) **Condescending Parent.** Putting down/ degrading/ name-calling/ verbal abuse (Eph. 4:29)—overpowering with superior wit, sarcasm, threats of physical force, unjustly withholding privileges, taking something precious away, etc. Shaming into submission.
- 19) **The Humiliating Parent.** Making fun of children at their expense, teasing in a cruel way (Job 17:1-2). Ridicule or mock them. Highlight deficiencies in intelligence ("stupid"), athletic skills, good looks ("ugly"), motor coordination (clumsy), etc.
- 20) **Manipulating Parent.** Manipulate children to serve their own agenda. Bribing them into obedience. Show love and favor when good, withdraw it when bad as a form of punishment.
- 21) **Perfect Image Parent.** Always afraid of children hurting their reputation and that others might think poorly of them. They have to keep up appearances. "Don't embarrass me!"
- 22) **Comparing Parent.** Always comparing child to their sibling or someone's "perfect" child (2 Cor. 10:12). Why can't you be like so and so? Favoritism (e.g., Joseph and his brothers).
- 23) **Despairing Parent.** Feels sorry for him or herself (self-pity). Always complaining; a victim of some wrong. Grumpy. Nothing is good. The world is a terrible place. No hope. No happiness.
- 24) **Untrustworthy Parent.** Don't keep promises. Says one thing but does another (Matt. 5:37; Col. 3:9). Unreliable, undependable, unpredictable. Repeated disappointments for children.
- 25) **Vicarious Parent.** See themselves thru child. Dad's trying to make sons be great athletes. Makes me look great. Too hands on. Micromanage all the child does. Overbearing. Doesn't let the child choose. Forces them into things they have no desire, skill, aptitude, fitness for.
- 26) **Tradition-Driven Parent.** Elevates family traditions to level of Biblical commands (e.g., holiday traditions, certain routines, or this is the way I did it growing up). No freedom to try something different (Gal. 5:1).