

Parenting Freedom (4)

Family Night – Wednesday, October 2, 2024

- Avoid coddling and control.
- Kids learn to obey by disobeying and reaping what they sow.
- Communicate consequences and let them choose! They will learn to make wise choices.
- Follow through.
- Be patient. Your job is not to change your child, but to demonstrate the blessing of obedience and the curse of disobedience.

But what if they don't WANT to obey?

“These people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me.” Isaiah 29:13

- Our kids are NOT willing participants in this process.
- All children are born with rebellious hearts.
- “As a parent, you’re not dealing just with bad behavior, but a condition that causes bad behavior. Your children are lost.”

“Before birth you were called a rebel” – Isaiah 48:8

“In sin did my mother conceive me.” – Psalm 51:5

“The hearts of the children of man are full of evil.” – Ecclesiastes 9:3

- Sin rejects authority.
 - Autonomy: “I have the right to live my life the way I choose.”
 - Self-sufficiency: “I have everything inside me to do what I need to do and be who I need to be.”
 - No one is autonomous. No one is self-sufficient.

“Parenting is not a behavior-control mission; it is a heart-rescue mission. The only hope for a lost child is a radical transformation of his heart. As parents, we have no ability to change our children’s hearts, but the heavenly Father does, and we are his tools in the lives of our children. So, we don’t settle for the announcement of rules, the threat of punishment, and the enforcement of consequences. We are looking for every opportunity to address heart issues in our children, praying that as we do, God will work the change in them that only he can accomplish.” Paul Tripp

Teaching Heart Submission

- Our goal should not be robotic obedience, but submissive and humble hearts.
- Disappoint them...
 - “Positive reinforcement only” parenting is going to be a disaster.
 - Kids need an *alpha*. They NEED to know they are not in charge.
 - But we need to do more than just disappoint them.
- ...but do it lovingly.
 - Submission often feels humiliating.
 - Our kids need to know that we have felt it too, because we are also under authority.
 - Recognize the disappointment and be kind.
 - Empathy takes the sting out of submission.
 - Talk WITH them not AT them.

“If we are going to err in our parenting (which we will), let’s err on the side of teaching them too much love. It’s a lot easier to develop a value of authority later than to develop a sense that I am loved.” – John Cox

- The Goals
 - To prepare them for adulthood
 - To see the value of authority
 - To develop wisdom
 - Most importantly: **to help them see their sin and need for Christ!**