

Parenting: Orienting on Christ



David and Sally Michael



Orient on Christ



Orient on Christ

1. Recognize Christ as the Source, Sustainer; and the Goal of our parenting

- *Romans 11:36– For from him (source) and through him (sustainer) and to him (goal) are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.*
- *Colossians 1:16– For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities- all things were created through him (source) and for him (goal).*



Orient on Christ

2. Recognize our parenting is done
His name, for the glory of God

- *Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God.*



Orient on Christ

3. Recognize our parenting is done in the strength that Christ supplies

- *1 Peter 4:11— ...whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies— in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen*
- *Philippians 4:13— I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*



Orient on Christ

4. Recognize that Christ is our only hope

- *1 Timothy 4:10— For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.*



Gospel-Powered Parenting

Christians parent with one eye on eternity. Their children will live forever. This is a staggering thought...Therefore, the Christian does not parent for this life only. The believing parent labors to prepare each child for the day of judgment. The stakes are inexpressibly high...

Christian parents have one goal during this short window of opportunity. It is to transfer the baton of faith in Christ to the next generation. Victory does not always go to the fastest four-hundred-meter relay team.

Gospel-Powered Parenting

It goes to the team that most efficiently transfers the baton. No matter how fast the runners, if the transfer is slow and clumsy, the team will probably lose. In the same way, parents prepare their children for the day of judgment by transferring their faith, values, purposes, self-discipline, and motivations to their children.

(William P. Farley, *Gospel-Powered Parenting: How the Gospel Shapes and Transforms Parenting*, ©2009, page 41)

Ambassadors for Christ

2 Corinthians 5:17-21—*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Ambassadors for Christ

GOD MAKING HIS APPEAL THROUGH US

Psalm 78:3-5:

- Entrusted with a testimony that “our father’s have told us”
- We will not hide....but tell
- So that they will arise and tell their children-even children yet unborn

Ambassadors for Christ

WE IMPLORE YOU...

Implore means
beseech,
plead, entreat

Your com

Ambassadors for Christ

WE IMPLORE YOU...

Implore means
beseech,
plead, entreat

- Not: demand, command, force
- Not: suggest, mention hope

Your com

Ambassadors for Christ

...BE RECONCILED TO GOD



Ambassadors for Christ

...BE RECONCILED TO GOD

*Proverbs 22:15a—
Folly is bound up
in the heart of a
child...*



The goal of parenting is
to prepare your child for
the day of judgment.

Strategies for Discipleship

AUTHENTIC EXAMPLE

Deuteronomy 6:5-9— You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

Your company name

“The main question for us and our children is not, “What do they believe?” Rather, the operative question is, “What do they love?” Salvation is a transfer of love of self to love of Christ.”

Chap Bettis. The Disciple-Making Parent: A Comprehensive Guidebook for Raising Your Children to Love and Follow Jesus Christ

Romans 1:21-25— For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Sin is Idolatrous

“Sin is fundamentally idolatrous. I do wrong things because my heart desires something more than the Lord. Sin produces a propensity toward idolatry in us all. We all migrate away from worship and service of the Creator toward worship and service of the created thing. This is the great spiritual war beneath every battle of behavior—the war for control of the heart. This struggle is captured well by the old hymn, ‘Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing.’”

Sin is Idolatrous

“The third verse says,

*O to grace how great a debtor daily
I’m constrained to be;*

*let that grace now, like a fether, bind my
wandering heart to thee.*

*Prone to wander—Lord, I feel it—
prone to leave the God I love;*

*Here’s my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.”*

Sin is Idolatrous

“The hymn reflects the fact that a person does not wake up one morning and say, “You know, I’m tired of being a theist. I think I’ll become an atheist.” No, the hymn depicts the great exchange that takes place within our hearts in the routine moments of life.”

Paul David Tripp. *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands*, p. 66-67

Your company name

“The first battleground of family discipleship is not my child’s heart; it is my heart. Each parent must decide whether he is more concerned that his child is accepted into Heaven or “Harvard.” We all have “Harvards”—those worldly successes we desire for our children, but the question remains, ‘Which is most important to me?’ Each parent must finish the sentence “I have no greater joy than...””

Chap Bettis. *The Disciple-Making Parent: A Comprehensive Guidebook for Raising Your Children to Love and Follow Jesus Christ*

“Fathers and mothers, do not forget that children learn more by the eye than do by the ear. What they see has a much stronger effect on their minds than what they are told. Think not your children will practice what they do not see you do.”

JC Ryle. *The Duties of Parents*

Diligent Instruction

Deuteronomy 6:5-9— You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Early Instruction

Start with simple statements of truth

- God is good
- God can do anything
- God made everything

Your company name

Make Application of Biblical Truths

Your company name

Make Application of Biblical Truths

“Soon a princess came along. She was one of the daughters of Pharaoh and had come to bathe in the river. She and her maids were walking along the river’s edge when she saw the little boat in the bushes. She sent one of her maids to get it and bring it to her so that she could open it and see what was inside. And when she opened it; there was a little baby! She felt sorry for him and decided to adopt him as her own son.”

Ken Taylor. *The Book for Children*. p. 91

Grace-Filled and Consistent Discipline

Infancy to 5 years: **DISCIPLINARIAN**

The parent is the *authority*



Your company name

The Tasks of Early Childhood

- To learn to be under authority
- To learn obedience

Your company name

Freedom within Boundaries

- 
- A photograph of a wooden fence made of vertical slats, set in a grassy yard. In the background, there are green trees and a portion of a house with a brown roof.
- Rules should be like fences;
 - Far enough away to give freedom
 - Close enough to impose limitations

Correction

“The parent comes to the child in God’s name and on God’s behalf. As parents, you can teach your child to receive correction from you because it is the means God has appointed. The child learns to receive correction, not because parents are always right, but because God says the rod of correction imparts of wisdom, and whoever heeds correction shows prudence (Proverbs 15: 5, 29: 15).”

Tedd Tripp. *Shepherding a Child’s Heart*. P. 36

Discipline

- **Proverbs 15:5**—*A fool despises his father's instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.*
- **Proverbs 29:15**—*The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.*
- **Proverbs 22:15**—*Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.*

Correction

“What makes this idea so hard to get hold of? We don't see ourselves as God's agents. We, therefore, correct our children when they irritate us. When the behavior doesn't irritate us, we don't correct them. Thus, a correction is not us rescuing our children from the path of danger; it is rather us airing our frustration.”

Tedd Tripp. *Shepherding a Child's Heart*. P. 36

Correction

“We discipline our children not so that they will make us happy but so that they will serve Christ as adults. We educate them not so they can have a good job but to develop them to be the best follower of Jesus they can be. We work hard to prepare them not for graduation day but for the Judgment Day!”

Your company name

Chap Bettis. [*The Disciple-Making Parent: A Comprehensive Guidebook for Raising Your Children to Love and Follow Jesus Christ.*](#)

Grace-Filled and Consistent Discipline

6-12 years old: **TRAINER**

- Directly working with your child to teach him the rules of the game
- Involves active participation with your child



Grace-Filled and Consistent Discipline

7-19 years old: COACH

- Child is playing the game; parents are watching from the sidelines and jumping in when necessary



Your company name

Grace-Filled and Consistent Discipline

years old and older: FRIEND



Your company name



Spiritual Leadership in the Home

1 Timothy 3:2-5— *He must manage his own household well, with all keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?*

1 Timothy 3:4— *He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity*

Spiritual Leadership in the Home

Fathers are to the home what elders are to the church

Hebrews 13:17— *^aObey your leaders and submit to them, ^bfor they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to ^cgive an account. ^dLet them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

Spiritual Leadership in the Home

KNOW

FEED

LEAD

PROTECT

Parenting: Orienting on Christ



*May God bless your parenting for
His glory and the joy of the next
generation.*