

Grace Based Families: Treating the People We Love the Same Way God Treats Us!

We may be passionate about our calling and our ministry, but if things are falling apart at home, it's just a matter of time before everything we're doing for God is negatively impacted. When there is a disconnect between our message and the kinds of relationships we have with the people closest to us, the reputation of the gospel is tarnished. In reality, our marriages and our kids should be the best living, breathing advertisement for the gospel we preach—even with all of the individual “issues” we bring to the family picture. But often they're just the opposite. Add to this the fact that the forces of evil work overtime to destroy the shepherd's family. Here's the good news: it doesn't have to be so bleak. God has given us all we need to create homes that reflect his heart and live out his love. It all pivots on our willingness to let the grace that saved us become the defining feature of our homes.

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Introduction:

- The hurried family ...
- Creating a culture of grace within our homes.
- Grace versus truth or grace and truth.

Scripture: Luke 2:39-52

- Setting the context
- A road trip with the boy Jesus.
- Jesus grew up in a grace-based family.

I. Grace based families give the people they love the freedom to be

_____.

Synonyms for “different” -

- One of the best ways to give children the freedom to be different is by allowing the differences between husband and wife to be freely expressed.
- Often our children’s differences annoy us ...

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

- Weaknesses are usually strengths pushed to an extreme.

Grace-based families allow the people they love the freedom to be different.

II. Grace based families give the people they love the freedom to be

_____.

- They don't have to wear masks.
- They can verbalize their doubts and fears.
- Their vulnerabilities can come to the surface without fear of them being attacked.
- We turn vulnerabilities into strengths when we voice approval and give them affections.

"But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." II Cor. 12:9

"Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." Col. 4:6

Grace-based families allow the people they love the freedom to be different and vulnerable.

III. Grace based families give the people they love the freedom to be _____.

- We need to give the people we love a respectful outlet for telling us what's on their heart—even if it's something we're not excited about hearing.

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16

- We are to keep them *under* control, not *control* them.
- When we control: we deflate them, but when we keep them under control we empower them.
- They have the option to voice their disappointments in us.

"See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many." Heb. 12:15

Grace-based families allow the people they love the freedom to be different, vulnerable, and candid.

IV. Grace based families give the people they love the freedom to _____.

- If home is where life makes up its mind ...

My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by him; for whom the Lord loves he chastens. Hebrews 12:5-6

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Grace-based families allow the people they love the freedom to be different, vulnerable, candid, and to make mistakes.

Closing: We need to seize every opportunity to touch the people we love with the grace of God.