

A Theology of Family

God is a God of relationship. He not only launched his relationship with the human race through the structure of a family, but he uses family imagery throughout the Bible to define his on-going relationship with us. The two most popular metaphors of God in the Bible are him being a father and a spouse. In this session, we'll build a theology of family that is a direct extension of God's heart for his family. We'll learn a theology of family that is framed by God's truth and tempered by His grace. And we'll distill the entire theology down to a paper napkin.

Tim Kimmel is the founder and Executive Director of Family Matters, whose goal is to see families transformed by God's grace into instruments of reformation and restoration. Tim develops resources for families and churches and conducts conferences throughout the world on the unique challenges facing today's families. He has authored many books, including: *Grace Based Parenting*, *Raising Kids for True Greatness*, *Little House on the Freeway*, *Connecting Church and Home*, and *Grace Filled Marriage*. Tim and his wife Darcy count their role as parents and grandparents as one of their greatest joys. God has blessed them with four children, their children's spouses, and a growing number of grandkids. Tim is a graduate of Bryan College (BA), Dallas Theological Seminary (Th.M.), and Western Seminary (D.Min.).

Kory Schuknecht is one of the founding board members of Family Matters and has been leading the charge for spiritually strong families for over three decades. He continues to advocate for this powerful message through personal relationships and through the leadership he provides as the Pastor of Family Ministry at Scottsdale Bible Church; a church of more than 7000 congregants in metropolitan Phoenix. He has served there as an elder for much of the past thirty years as well as teaching in the Children's Ministry and Student Ministry. Kory and his wife Gail teamed with Tim and Darcy Kimmel to teach and disciple thirty young couples (for thirteen years) in the grace-based model of relationships. Kory and Gail have four children who bless them with their own expanding families. He has a Bachelor of Science in Business from Arizona State University.

1. The job of a parent is to connect to the heart of our child in such a way that we make it easier for them to connect to the heart of God.

2. God has given us the perfect way to make this happen – His _____!
Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. I Peter 4:10

3. Grace-based parenting is simply treating your kids the way God treats His kids

Grace-Based Parents:

- Accept children regardless of merit.
- Serve children's needs without a sense of obligation.
- Joyfully recognize their child's God-given potential and do what they can to develop it for God's glory.

- Grace-based parenting is the _____ of grace and truth, providing a balanced plan for raising truly great kids.

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of **grace** and **truth**...**For** the law was given through Moses; **grace** and **truth** came through Jesus Christ. John 1:14, 17* (emphasis added)

- Grace is not so much what you do but _____ you do what you do.
- God wants us to raise kids who love Him, live for _____ and make an eternal impact in their world.

The Strength of the Family Determines:

- The health of our churches
- The impact of evangelism
- The spread of world missions
- The conscience of our political leadership
- The character of our military and first responders
- The heart of our educational system
- The ethics of our scientific community
- The morality of our arts and entertainment

