

Grace Based Parenting: Inner Needs-Greatness

God has built three driving inner needs into every human heart. These needs must be met. They are either going to be met in a legitimate way or an illegitimate way. We'll learn what these three needs are. We'll learn how to meet them in a way that sets our children up to enjoy a secure, significant, and strong relationship with God. And we'll learn how we can not only incorporate the on-going meeting of these needs into the culture of our families, but into our church as well. Additionally we'll learn the biblical target we should be aiming all of our kids towards and how to use our lives and ministry to make this so.

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.).

Darcy Kimmel is the Vice President of Family Matters, which she helped found with her husband, Tim Kimmel, in 1982. Family Matters is a ministry dedicated to "equipping families for every age and stage of life." Darcy has a heart for encouraging and equipping women to maximize their unique callings in life as wives, mothers, and grandmothers. She speaks at conferences with her husband regarding marriage and parenting issues. As a writer, Darcy is co-author of several books on parenting, grandparenting, and family relationships. Darcy is also a regular contributor to the Family Matters' blog and writes a quarterly column of encouragement and advice in Family Matters' publication, *Heart of the Home*. Darcy has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Family Studies from Ottawa University. Darcy loves being a wife and mom more than anything else she does.

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. There he has served 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 30 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.

God has built three inner needs into the heart of every child.

Meeting these needs in our children now paves the way for God to meet them forever.

Inner Need No. 1. A Secure Love (Psalm 139: 13-14)

A. A child feels secure love when:

- They know that they are accepted.
- They know that they are affiliated with a loving and honoring home.

- They receive regular and generous helpings of affection. (**Mark 9:36-37a**)

Ultimate goal: Pave the way for them to find their true security in Jesus Christ.

- B. If children don't find their ultimate sense of security in Jesus Christ, they'll turn to counterfeit solutions such as _____ and possessions.

Inner Need No. 2. A Significant Purpose

A. A child gains a significant purpose when:

- They are regularly affirmed. (Avoid empty praise.)
- They know they have our daily attention. (**Luke 18:16**)
- They are gracefully admonished. (**Hebrews 12:11**) – (Boundaries tell our kids that we care enough to pay attention.)

Ultimate goal: Pave the way for them to find their true significance in Jesus Christ.

- B. If our children don't find their ultimate sense of significance in Jesus Christ, they'll turn to counterfeit solutions such as popularity, applause and recognition.

Inner Need No. 3. A Strong Hope

A. A child gains a strong hope when:

- They know their parents are working to develop their God-given abilities.
- Their parents lead them and encourage them to live a life of adventure.
 - God has not called us to raise safe kids, He has called us to raise strong kids. (**Joshua 1:9**)
- Their parents help them turn their childhood into a series of positive accomplishments.
 - Focus on their strengths rather than their weaknesses.

Ultimate goal: Pave the way for them to find their true strength in Jesus Christ.

- B. If our children don't find their ultimate strength in Jesus Christ, they'll turn to counterfeit solutions such as _____, high-control and abuse.

Aiming Our Kids at True Greatness

I. Many parents aim their children at a future focused on "success".

- A. Pursuing success becomes a _____ because of how it is usually measured:

- Wealth
- Power
- Beauty
- Fame

- B. We sabotage our children's future when we make success their _____ rather than an outcome of living a truly great life.

- C. Aiming children at success sets them up for a self-absorbed and unnecessarily complicated life.

- D. When we aim our children at success we need to know that:

- God places no extra value on these four measurements of success.
- We don't need God's assistance.
- We may deter them from relationships and vocations that God has picked out for them.
- We are aiming _____.

II. God's Word encourages us to aim our children at a future of true greatness.

- A. **True Greatness:** A passionate love for Jesus Christ that shows itself in an unquenchable love and concern for others.

- B. Aiming children at a life of true greatness sends them into the future _____ upward and outward rather than inward.

III. True Greatness is easier to achieve when we build four qualities into our child's heart.

- A. A _____ heart (Philippians 2:3-4)
- A reverence for God and respect for others.
- B. A _____ heart (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- An appreciation for what they have been given and Who has given it.
- C. A _____ heart (Luke 6:38)
- A great delight in sharing with others what God has entrusted to you.
- D. A _____ heart (Matthew 25:40)
- A willingness to take action in order to help someone else.
- E. We build these qualities into our children when we:
- Are an **example** of true greatness
 - Make humility, gratefulness, generosity, and a servant spirit the **expectation** rather than the exception.
 - Provide opportunities for our children to **experience** a lifestyle of true greatness.
 - **Encourage** these qualities by valuing and praising our children's efforts.

IV. True Greatness prepares our children to answer the three biggest questions of their life.

Question No. 1: What is their _____ in life going to be?

- What are they going to do with what God has given them?

Question No. 2: Who is their _____ going to be?

- Who are they going to link arms with for the rest of their life?

Question No. 3: Who is their _____ going to be?

- To whom will they give control of their life?