

Law or Love: Everyday Questions in Raising Kids God's Way

Workshop

Parenting is one of the biggest challenges in today's society. Christian parents are challenged daily about the roots of their convictions. What do we believe about discipline, expectations, punishment, and family rules? On the other hand, what does love, forgiveness, encouragement and deep connectedness in a healthy Christian family look like according to God's word? Christian families are continuously put on the front line of belief systems while their children are at risk. In this lecture and these discussions, participants will talk about these challenges and receive guidelines for helping parents raise healthy children by Biblical principles.

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I. Discipline

A. Society's opinion on parental rules and discipline

1. Abuse
2. Limiting
3. Antidote of love

B. Biblical answer on parental rules and discipline

1. "Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this right" (Eph. 6:1.)
 - a. "We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ." 2. Cor. 10:5.
2. Discipline is God's love to reconcile us into relationship with Him
 - a. "For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?" Heb.12:6-7.

C. Challenge of parents

1. Fear of hurting the children
2. Fear of losing the love of a child
3. Laziness
4. Fear of public opinion

- D. Self-reflection
 - 1. Where are we with God's rules and discipline?
- II. Love, forgiveness and encouragement
 - A. Society's opinion on love, forgiveness and encouragement
 - 1. Love – as giving all
 - 2. Forgiveness – earning it
 - 3. Encouragement – based on what? (Parental gain? Present mood?)
 - B. Biblical answer on love, forgiveness and encouragement
 - 1. Forgiveness
 - a. “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.” Gal.6:1.
 - 2. Encouragement
 - a. “Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.” Colossians 3:21.
 - 3. Love
 - a. “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.” Eph. 4:15.
 - C. Challenge of parents
 - 1. Unforgiving heart
 - 2. Controlling attitude
 - 3. Unresolved deeper issues – unrelated to child
 - D. Self-reflection
 - 1. How are we with God's love, forgiveness and encouragement?