



Sermon series: Which kind of Parenting is Best?

Text: Ephesians 6:1-4

Big Idea: Christian moms and dads parent for God's glory, then their child's needs; then think about their own wants.

Delivered: November 8, 2020

## The Gospel will not Idolize You

*My harshness doesn't extinguish as easily with them as it used to. It lingers now, like the smell of smoke on clothes.*  
(Sonya)

One psychologist said this about a husband and father: "I don't know him, but I believe that generally people who behave that way know exactly what they are doing, and they do it because it gets them what they want. After all, as you said, his rage "silences everyone." Wouldn't we all love to have a button we could just push to silence whoever we want at times?

### 1. Worship myself, Wound my Child

a. \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ children. Ephesians. 6:4 cf. Colossians 3:21

b. \_\_\_\_\_ -- \_\_\_\_\_ parents.

### 2. Worship God, Serve my Child

a. Gospel is full of \_\_\_\_\_ -- \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 8:32, Hebr. 12:3)

b. Parenting \_\_\_\_\_

i. God's \_\_\_\_\_

ii. Child's \_\_\_\_\_

iii. Parent's \_\_\_\_\_/comfort/peace/approval by others.

1. *Whose* are my Children? Ephesians 6:1

2. *What's* my duty? Ephesians 6:4

To think about...

- Read Proverbs 15:1. Have you ever been harsh with your son or daughter and seen this response? Then what happened?
- Every parent loses their cool, every parent gets angry. But of these 3, would any say you are typically an angry parent: your spouse, your children, you? If so, in what ways?
- Are there ways you parent that you think might contribute to your child becoming an angry or discouraged adult? Perpetual criticism, parenting anger, harshness, absence of affection?
- Which of the following matters most to you when it comes to your children?
  - I want her to be well-adjusted
  - I want him to excel in all that he pursues
  - I want her to find a great mate and have a durable and delightful marriage
  - I want him to follow Jesus
    - Would God agree with the one you circled or underlined?
- Think of the tough parenting clashes you've had with your child/children. Did they give evidence that you are seeking God's glory first, and your child's needs (as defined by God) second? Or did your impatience, harshness, and anger suggest a little bit of self-worship rather than self-denial? Any repentance and apologies needed?
- How did your own parents' efforts affect you now that you're an adult?