

The Goal of Parenting **Wayne Johnston**

Introduction

The big picture of Christian parenting has three pillars:

The Goal

Galatians 1.10

For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God?

Or am I still striving to please men?

If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

Effort in Evangelism

Pray

1 Timothy 2.1-8 instructs us to pray for all sorts of unbelievers. Commit yourself to faithfully pray for your unbelieving children.

Communicate the Gospel

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 3 that we are to plant the seed of the Gospel and water it. Only God has the ability to cause the growth. Do your part in communicating the Gospel clearly and accurately for your child's age and biblical understanding.

Demonstrate the Gospel

In 1 Timothy, the apostle Paul exhorts Timothy, the Ephesian Pastor, to show himself as "an example of those who believe," (4.12). Doing so requires the church leader to "discipline himself for the purpose of godliness" (4.8), "be absorbed" in actions of righteousness, and to "take pains with these things."

Effort in Teaching and Training

Proverbs 4.1-2

Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father,

And give attention that you may gain understanding.

For I give you sound teaching;

Do not abandon my instruction.

The Goal of Parenting is to Honor God

Honor God

1. God gives you a mission 1 Corinthians 10.31
2. God is involved in every moment of your life
Ephesians 2.10

Hope in Jesus Christ

1. Jesus Christ is your source of courage John 16.33

Hope in God's Word

1. God gives us hope through the sufficient provision of His Word
2 Timothy 3.16-17
2. The great enemy of the Christian parent is sin
Psalm 119.11

The Purpose in Practice

Philippians 1.20-21

1. The purpose is boldly exalting Christ.
2. You are assured of accomplishing the primary life purpose of bringing glory to God.
3. You can achieve your goal every day.

What does this look like in the life of a Christian parent?

1. If my four year old does well today...
2. If my four year old does not do well today...
3. In both cases I will be content because I accomplished my purpose:
I exalted Christ by following His pattern of obeying the Scriptures.
4. The unequally yoked parent can regard each day alike.
5. When your teen lies, you can honor God.
6. When your 12 year old was respectful, you can exalt Christ.
7. If your purpose is to boldly exalt Christ, nothing can stop you.

The Perspective of a Parent with Purpose

God is here with me.

1. Acts 17.25, 28: He gives me life and breath.
In Him I live and move and exist.
2. Romans 8.38-39: He loves me. Nothing can possibly separate me from
His love.
3. Romans 8.28-29: God is causing all things to work for my benefit.
He causes each thing to help me be conformed to the image of Jesus
Christ.
It is my purpose to boldly exalt Christ by being more like Him.
4. James 1.2-4: God is testing my faith, so He can strengthen me
to overcome sin (1 John 5.3-5) and glorify Him by enduring.

The Scriptures address every situation.

1. Hebrews 4.12-13: God's Word is alive and active. God will use it to expose the thoughts and intentions of your heart.
2. Psalm 119.98-100: God's Word will make you wiser than enemies, teachers, and older people.

I can obey God.

1. 1 Peter 2.1-3 The Scriptures enable you to do right.

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The Scriptures address every situation.

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The Practices of a Parent with Purpose

Love your children as Christ loves you.

Teach, Train, Lead.

Be fearless.

Conclusion