

Parenting Principles - Introduction

Four Foundational Truths - (Psalm 127)

- Children are a blessing from God so we must parent not out of fear, but out of love and grace.
- Parents (Both of them!) are the child's first and most important spiritual mentors
- The Bible is our ultimate authority for faith & practice in parenting and everything else
- All that we do in parenting and marriage MUST flow from the gospel.

One Perspective Change – Parenting as Discipleship

Why Principles?

Principle #1 – Don't Freak Out – “Concern is healthy, fear and panic kill,” so take the long view.

Principle #2 - Be Real – Walking along the way means not being a pretender.

Principle #3 – The lens protects better than the shield (Prepare or Protect? Just training Defense won't work)

Principle #4 – Enter their world INTENTIONALLY

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Principle #5 – Aim at the Right Target - The goal isn't behavior it's the Savior.

Principle #6 – Parenting is best done in community - Surround yourself with the community of believers

Principle #7 – Prioritize It & Learn from it

Just Do It – Within your gifting and family dynamic make it a priority. There is no more important thing you can do for your children.

What kind of parent will succeed? The parent who is,

Committed – Never, never give up.

Equipped – Geared up for the battle in the Word, prayer, the church and the biblically sound resources available

&

Engaged – “Truth without relationship leads to rejection” – Josh McDowell. Engage them in loving relationship.