

Three Ideas on Parenting

grace church position papers

BIG IDEA

Parenting is leadership, challenging and intimate, involves training and development—executive decision making/vigorous personal engagement that is unremitting. Two cautions:

1. There is not a system or a checklist that can be worked—fear will drive us to these simplicities.
2. We cannot be spiritually or intellectually lazy.

MISSIONAL

Our parenting approach must be missional. Children belong to God and He has purposes for them that He has established, mainly participating in God's mission on the earth.

- Know what God is doing in the world
- Know where you as a parent are participating in God's mission. If you are not giving your life away for the mission, the kids will see that lack of authenticity and could possibly feel the weight of religion and church as a control.
- Know personally the children that God has entrusted to you (attitudes, giftedness, strengths) so you can help them have an awareness of where their gifts line up with what God is doing in the world.
- Know how to help them come to terms with what they are and what they aren't.

MULTIGENERATIONAL

We are just passing through, and our goal is not to develop a perfect family. It is to continue in the story of generational investment that we may build into an eternal family.

The destination for the family is not a Norman Rockwell painting where the destination is to get all the kids to be Christian and sit around the Christmas tree, but this is just a small part of what God is doing in the world—we are just passing the baton.

CORPORATE

As a church body and community, we share in the

parenting responsibility together. If you don't have the influence of others, you will perpetuate your own sin and blind spots in your kids. The idea of a nuclear family is a post-Industrial Revolution idea, not a Biblical one.

God is building a family. And in order to do that, He kicked His own Son out of the family to die on the cross for us in order that we might be brought in. As we work diligently on our parenting, let us not forget the sacrifice our Father made for us .