

**TCS Parenting Class**  
**12.8.2020**  
**The Value of a Parenting Plan**

About Mickey & Bonnie:

- Married 27 years
- Raised 2 kids in a private Christian school
- 2 adult children at Texas Tech
- Empty nesters
- We don't have perfect kids nor are we anywhere close to perfect parents, but we are intentional

**What does the Bible really say about parenting?**

- *Deuteronomy 6:5–7 (NLT)*

*And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. 6 And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. 7 Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.*

- *Joshua 24:15 (NLT)*

*...But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.”*

- *Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)*

*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

- *Proverbs 13:24 (NLT)*

*Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them.*

- *Ephesians 6:4 (NLT)*

*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.*

Not real specific (much like spiritual leadership in a marriage)

## 2 Distinct Aspects of a Parenting Plan (2 sides of the same coin)

1. Discipline (practical, everyday decisions etc.)
2. Discipleship

Illustration: Physical Health

- Exercise (cardio/resistance)
- Time with God (word/prayer)

We all tend to do better with a plan

- Ex: Bible reading
- Foundation for consistency
- Brings clarity in conflict

### Side 1 - Discipline (Practical Parenting)

- What is your philosophy on:
  - Discipline
    - Spank or not spank?
  - Screen time
  - Cell phones
  - Church involvement
  - Dating
  - First car
- What is your parenting style? Your spouse or other parents?
  - Helicopter (hover, protect)
  - Drill Sergeant (yell, authoritative)
    - You don't want your kids making their first decision in the back seat of a car at 16
  - Coach/Consultant (preferred)
  - Friends (when done well, this is a natural outcome)

### Popular Parenting Philosophies

- Growing Kids God's Way
- Love & Logic
- Shepherding a Child's Heart
- Other...

### General Tips

1. It's important to be on the same page philosophically.
2. It's okay to implement the plan differently. (L&L Conference)

- Kids are resilient
- Just remember they will be picking your assisted living home one day...
- 3. Connect with families you respect and ask them how they did it
  - Millers/Winklers
- 4. Borrow, steal, cut and paste from all the best resources to create a road map for your family
  - It's not likely you will find one size fits all
- 5. Adapt and grow together

## **Side 2 - Discipling Your Kids**

- Teaching your kids to:
  - Spend time with God
  - Hear and obey God
  - Love God's Church (the body of Christ)
  - Know the gospel
  - Go and make disciples (kingdom people)

## **Parenting in a Nutshell**

- We point our kids to Christ
- We model what it means to walk with God

## **Action Steps**

1. Set a time to discuss and reflect on how your current parenting plan is working
2. Identify 3 families you deeply respect as evidenced by the fruit of their marriage/parenting
3. Set a time to connect with them on how they do/did it
4. Discuss and pray about how you will intentionally disciple your kids at age-appropriate levels
5. Our top 3 priorities
  - Bible Reading plan
  - Hearing God
  - Holy Spirit