

# Parent, Meet Your Child

Parenting 101 – part 1

*Ephesians 6:1*

October 30, 2022

## **DAY 1: An overview of parenting.**

*Psalm 127:3 Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him.*

*Psalm 127:1 Unless the Lord builds the house, those who labor, labor in vain.*

1. Why is this true? The character development of any human being is a daunting task. It requires divine intervention and divine power to change a human heart.

2. Here is a good job description for the parent.

*Genesis 18:19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”*

### **3. The 3-fold task of parenting**

a. We are to love our children.

*Titus 2:4 Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children...*

b. We are to train our children in wisdom, and reflect His love and character to them.

*Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.<sup>y</sup> <sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

c. We are to discipline our children.

*Proverbs 22:15 **Folly** is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.*

4. What strikes you from today's devotional?

## **DAY 2: There is a moral framework to life**

1. Here are the Ten Commandments.

*Exodus 20:1 And God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup> “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>3</sup> “You shall have no other gods before me.*

*<sup>4</sup> “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

*<sup>7</sup> “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.*

*<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*

*<sup>12</sup> “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.*

*<sup>13</sup> “You shall not murder.*

*<sup>14</sup> “You shall not commit adultery.*

*<sup>15</sup> “You shall not steal.*

*<sup>16</sup> “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.*

*<sup>17</sup> “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”*

2. Children also have two specific commands.

*Eph. 6:1 Children, **obey** your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*

3. This command has to do with obeying your parents. A child must learn how to **act** rightly.

4. As they learn how to obey their parents at a young age, with less severe consequences, they hopefully learn how to obey other authorities in their lives—police, teachers, pastors, the law, and God, where the consequences can be very severe.

5. Children must also learn how to have right **attitudes**.

*Eph. 6:2 **Honor** your father and mother.*

6. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

### DAY 3: The problem of foolishness and folly

1. Each child has an internal “disease” called “foolishness”. It is also called “folly.”

2. The problem of folly begins with the belief that we do not need God, not in a functional sense.

*Psalm 14:1<sup>1</sup> The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”*

3. But the problem of foolishness is not just an intellectual one. It is a deeply moral one. Notice how Solomon describes how folly is in us.

*Proverbs 22:15 **Folly** is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.*

4. Folly is woven into our very human nature. It is “comes naturally” to us. It is in our core nature.

5. Folly, fool, and foolishness are closely linked together, with small nuances of meaning. In the following verses, underline or jot down what strikes you about foolishness and folly.

*Proverbs 5:23 For lack of discipline they will die, led astray by their own great folly.*

*Prov. 12:23 The prudent keep their knowledge to themselves, but a fool’s heart blurts out folly.*

*Prov. 14:18 The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.*

*Prov. 14:29 Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly.*

*Prov. 26:11 As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly.*

*Prov. 5:23 He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.*

6. What strikes you about the folly and foolishness that lies in every child’s nature?

## **DAY 4: The problem of self-rule**

1. What does foolishness look like? First, the principle of self-rule.

*Genesis 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”*

*Genesis 3:4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*

2. Fallen people believe they can discern what is right and wrong. They can discern whether or not God exists or is even important. They can call the shots in their life and get their needs met. They believe they are the ultimate determiner of good and evil. There is nothing more self-evident to fallen man that they must control their lives to get what they believe they need and want.

“I’m in charge!”

*Isaiah 53:6 We are the ones who strayed away like sheep, we, who left God’s paths to follow our own.*

3. But with children, the problem of self-rule is worse than we think. They not only want to control themselves. They also want to control you!

“I want to control my life, and you!”

4. But it is actually worse than that!

“I want to control my life, and you, even if it causes you and me pain!”

*Prov. 26:12 Do you see a person wise in their own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for them.*

5. Parents need to provide a laboratory where children learn, by parents’ words, examples, actions and consequences that self-rule brings misery—to the child and everyone else.

6. If they do not learn this is their home, given ideal conditions of love and support, they will have to learn it the hard way—with the law, the police, getting cut from a team, a broken marriage, etc.

7. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

## **DAY 5: The problem of self-gratification**

1. What does foolishness look like? Second, the principle of **self-gratification**.

*Titus 3:3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures.*

2. These “qualities” lie in the heart of every child. What strikes you from Titus 3:3?

*Prov. 26:11 As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly.*

3. Self-gratification is also at the heart of folly.

4. Self-gratification has each of these components:

a. Pleasure on demand.

b. “When I want, how I want, how long I want it.”

c. “I’ll do whatever I want even when you tell me it’s not good for me.”

d. “I’ll seek my own pleasure even if it’s not good for me.”

e. “I’ll seek my own pleasure even if it hurts me.”

f. “I’ll see my own pleasure even when it hurts mom and dad.”

g. We are pleasure-driven more than conviction-driven, character-driven, right and wrong-driven.

5. The parental home is to be a laboratory where children learn by parental words, actions, example, and consequences that living to please yourself doesn’t work. It creates misery.

6. What strikes you from today’s devotional?