



THE 8 “C’s” OF PARENTING

Session #1

A. INTRODUCTION

D. Martyn-Lloyd Jones

“I believe that Christian parents and children, Christian families, have a unique opportunity of witnessing to the world at this present time by just being different. We can be true evangelists by showing this discipline, this law and order, this true relationship between parents and children. We may be the means under God’s hand of bringing many to a knowledge of the truth.”

John MacArthur

“What we desperately need is a return to the biblical principles of parenting. Christian parents don’t need new, shrink-wrapped programs, they need to apply and obey consistently the few simple principles that are clearly set forth for parents in God’s Word, such as these: Constantly teach your kids the truth of God’s Word (Deuteronomy 6:7). Discipline them when they do wrong (Proverbs 23:13-14). Don’t provoke them to anger (Colossians 3:21). Those few select principles alone, if consistently applied, would have a far greater positive impact for the struggling parent than issues that consume so much time in a typical parenting programme.”

B. THE 8 “C’s” OF PARENTING

1. CHRIST

a. Christ is with us in the task of parenting.

2 Peter 1:3

“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.”

b. Christ is the goal of our parenting.

Grant Layman

“The goal of our parenting is to raise children who become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ and are committed to serving within the context of the local church.”

2 & 3. CHARACTER AND CONDUCT

- The importance of our example before our children.

Tom Marshall

“People don’t follow visions or dreams or schemes or ideas, they follow leaders.”

J.C Ryle

“Instruction, advice and commands will profit little, unless they are backed up by the pattern of your own life. Your children will never believe you are in earnest and really wish them to obey you so long as your actions contradict your counsel.”

- Are you pursuing Christ in the way you desire for your children?
- Is there any area of your life that is out of step with the gospel and needs addressing?
- Is your obedience to God’s Word the same kind of obedience you long to see in your children?

4. COMMUNICATION

Colossians 3:20-21

“Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”

- Obey (hypakouo) is a compound of 2 words:
hyp = “under”
akouo = “hear” or “listen”

- To “obey” literally means to “listen under your parents and do it”

J.I Packer

“To obey biblically is to attentively and heartily comply with the directives of someone with acknowledged authority. Three thoughts are present: They must attend the sound, understand the utterance and act upon it. Those to whom obedience is due must not only have a right to command, but also be able to make known their requirements”

- Communication
 - Training and instruction.
 - Encouragement.
 - Gospel-grace through our words and attitudes.

5. CONTROL**Ephesians 5:18**

And do not get drunk on wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.

- Drunken Men vs. The Spirit-filled Christian

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

“When you are disciplining a child, you should have first controlled yourself. If you try to discipline your child when you are in a temper, it is certain that you will do more harm than good. What right have you to say to your child that he needs discipline when you obviously need it yourself! Self-control is an essential pre-requisite in the control of others. We must start with ourselves. We must be certain that we are in control of ourselves, that we are cool. Whatever may have happened, whatever provocation, we must not react with violence similar to that of the man who is drunk; there must be this personal discipline, this self-control that enables a man to look at the situation objectively, and to deal with it in a balanced and controlled man. How important this is!”

- Do you over-react at the slightest thing?
- Is your discipline in keeping with the severity of the transgression?

- Are you exercising discipline (i.e. restorative – leading your child to repentance and to seek forgiveness for sin; seeing their need of a saviour and the provision of the gospel) or are you *punishing them for offending you*?
- Are your children always hearing “no” or are you setting reasonable boundaries & helping them to stay within them?
- **How would/does God treat me when I sin and disobey? Would he respond the way I do?**

6. CONSISTENCY

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

“There is no worse type of parent than he who one day, in a kindly mood, is indulgent and allows the child to do almost anything it likes, but who the next day flares up in a rage if the child does scarcely anything at all. Capriciousness in the parent is again indicative of this ‘drunk with wine’ condition. and makes life impossible for the child. There must be consistency, not only in the reaction but also in the conduct and behaviour of the parent.”

- Do you treat your children differently depending on your mood?
- Are you sending out conflicting messages to you children?

7. CARE

- The worldly culture of “care” vs. Biblical care

J.C Ryle

“Precious, no doubt, are these little ones in your eyes; but if you love them, think often of their souls. No interest should weigh with you so much as their eternal interests. No part of them should be so dear to you as that part which will never die. The world, with all its glory, shall pass away; the hills will melt; the heavens shall be wrapped together as a scroll; the sun shall cease to shine. But the spirit which dwells in those little creatures, whom you love so well, shall outlive them all, and whether in happiness or misery (to speak as a man) will depend on you.”

- Soul Care & Prayer

J.C Ryle

“Without the blessing of the Lord, your best endeavours will do no good. He has the hearts of all men in his hands, and except he touch the hearts of your children by His Spirit, you weary yourself to no purpose. Water, therefore, the seed you sow on their minds with unceasing prayer. The Lord is far more willing to hear than we to pray; far more ready to give blessings than we to ask them; but he loves to be entreated for them. I set the matter of prayer as the topstone and seal of all you do. Parents if you love your child, you cannot name their names before the mercy-seat too often.”

8. CHRIST