

The Philosophy of Parenting God's Way By Quentin Swafford

Focus of Family and Parents:

NLT Proverbs 1:2-4 "The purpose of these proverbs is to teach people wisdom and discipline, and to help them understand wise sayings. 3. Through these proverbs, people will receive instruction in discipline, good conduct, and doing what is right, just, and fair. 4. These proverbs will make the simpleminded clever. They will give knowledge and purpose to young people."

NLT Proverbs 1:7 "Fear (healthy respect) of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge. Only fools despise wisdom and discipline."

NLT Proverbs 1: 8-9 "Listen, my child, to what your father teaches you. Don't neglect your mother's teaching. 9. What you learn from them will crown you with grace and clothe you with honor."

- Only one in three Christian families in the United States believes in moral absolutes.
- Only one in nine of their children do believe there are moral absolutes.
- 4.8 million children need to be placed a home other than their own.
- 60% of all children in the United States do not live with both birth parents.

Principle:

The most powerful and effective way each of us as individuals (Christians) can help in changing the negative is to first work on our own personal relationship with God and keep and maintain our marriages and families.

Positive, Strength Based Families:

Parenting, to be done effectively and as well as biblically, is to be done from a positive approach (Attitude).

The tendency to focus, in parenting, on the negative is not only the natural human viewpoint, but becomes evil by its very nature.

God also admonishes us to be parents like He is to us:

Micah 7:18 "Who is a God like Thee, who pardons iniquity and passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in unchanging love."

Jonah 4:2 "And he prayed to the LORD and said, 'Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore, in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that Thou art a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.'"

Introduction:

The Biblical Philosophy of Parenting:

Our healthy, functional, effective, intimate relationship with the Heavenly Father and our intimate, effective, Biblical marriage causes us to understand and be motivated to parent in a nurturing and loving way. We do need Spiritual motivation because it is hard work and emotionally exhausting and parenting will never be for cowards or slackers.

Responsibility of Parenting:

NLT Ephesians 6:4 "And now a word to you fathers. *Don't make your children angry by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction approved by the Lord.*"

NLT Proverbs 22:6 "*Teach your children to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain upon it.*"

NAU James 3:17 "But the wisdom from above is *first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.*"

NAU John 13:15 "For I gave you an example that you also should *do as I did to you.*"

Philosophy of Parenting God's Way:

Session 1: Parents Know Grace

Session 2: Marriage (Oneness)

Session 3: Communication with Children

Session 4: Parents know real value

Session 5: Parents and the Culture

Session 1: Effective Parenting God's Way

- Understanding "God and His Grace."
- Parents must know God and His grace and intimacy
- Personal Spiritual Growth and Maturity:

NAU Philippians 3:7 "But whatever things were gain to me, those things *I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.*"

NLT Philippians 3:7 "I once thought all these things were so very important, but now *I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.*"

- Children are a Gift from God:

NLT Psalm 127:3 "Children are a *gift from the LORD*; they are a reward from Him.

- God Will Help (Spiritual Courage):

NAU Hebrews 11:23 "By *faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months* by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict."

NLT Hebrews 11:23 "It was *by faith that Moses' parents hid him for three months*. They saw that God has given them an unusual child, and they were not afraid of what the king might do."

- The Invisible Battle:

Satan	GOD
Selfishness	LAW + RIGHTEOUSNESS
Good & Evil	GRACE
Control & intimidation	UNCONDITIONAL LOVE
Shame	FORGIVENESS
Fear	FREEDOM
Abuse	HONOR

Session 2: Effective Parenting God's Way:

- Intimacy and Communication with Mate. (Oneness)
 - Parenting also means maintaining a high degree of intimacy and communication (oneness) with our mate.

- Family, Marriage, and Parent:

Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, *male and female He created them.*"

- The Team in Parenting:

NLT Genesis 2:24 "This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the *two are united into one.*"

NAU Genesis 2:24 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and *they shall become one flesh.*”

Honor in Marriage:

NLT Romans 12:10 “Love each other with genuine affection, and *take delight in honoring each other.*”

NAU Romans 12:10 “*Be devoted to one another* in brotherly love; *give preference to one another in honor;*”

NLT Proverbs 21:21 “Whoever pursues godliness and unending love will find life, *godliness, and honor.*”

NAU Proverbs 21:21 “He who pursues *righteousness and loyalty* finds life, righteousness and honor.”

NLT 1 Peter 2:21 “This suffering is all part of what God has called you to. Christ, who suffered for you, is your example. Follow in His steps.

He never sinned, and He never deceived anyone.

He did not retaliate when He was insulted. When He suffered, He did not threaten to get even.

He left His case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

He personally carried away our sins in His own body on the cross so we can be dead to sins and live for what is right. You have been healed by His wounds!

Once you were wandering like lost sheep. *But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.*

NLT 1 Peter 3:1 “In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands, even those who refuse to accept the Good News. Your godly lives will speak to them better than any words. They will be won over

2. by watching your pure, godly behavior.

3. *Don't be concerned about the outward beauty* that depends on fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes.

4. You should be known for the *beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit,* which is so precious to God.

5. That is the way the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They trusted God and accepted the authority of their husbands.

6. For instance, Sarah obeyed her husband, Abraham, when she called him her master. You are her daughters when you do what is right without fear of what your husbands might do.

7. In the same way, you husbands must *give honor to your wives. Treat her with understanding as you live together.* She may be weaker than you are, but *she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life.* If you don't treat her as you should, your prayers will not be heard.

8. Finally, all of you should *be of one mind, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.*

9. *Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate when people say unkind things about you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing.* That is what God wants you to do, and He will bless you for it.

10. For the Scriptures say, “If you want a happy life and good days, keep your tongue from speaking evil, and keep your lips from telling lies.

11. Turn away from evil and do good. *Work hard at living in peace with others.*

12. The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and His ears are open to their prayers. But the Lord turns His face against those who do evil.”

• **God's Way of Living in Marriage:**

- Right living and honesty
- No retaliation
- No revenge
- Trust God for fairness and justice
- Guard the soul
- Inward beauty
- Give honor
- Treat with equality

- Tenderness and humility
 - No retaliation but bless for evil
 - Work hard
 - **Marriage Demands Discipline:**
Hebrews 12:11 “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”
Jeremiah 31:3, 32:40 NIV “I loved you with an everlasting love” “I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them”
 - **Unconditionally Committed:**
 - Commitment is intrusive and makes life-changing demands, but without it there is no intimacy
 - Intimacy dies when there is no surrender, trust, or consistent time, spent together with the one loved.
 - **Righteously Surrendered:**
Romans 12:1 “Therefore, I urge you Brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.”
Song of Solomon 8:6 “Having a faithful commitment to marriage is like having a permanent seal affixed to each person’s life. Solomon’s bride declared, “Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm.”
“In a loving (biblical) surrender you never lose yourself. “There is a delicious relaxation, an unspeakable peace in knowing that one belongs in another’s arms, and that for from being swallowed up by the other’s heart, it is there that the mystery on one’s own true identity opens up as never before.” (Mason 1985 pge 88)
 - **Effective Leadership and Responsiveness:**
 - The husband is to be a positive ad supportive leader. (Servant Shepherd)
 - The wife is to be respective and responsive.
- HAU **Psalm 139:1-12** “For the choir director. A psalm of David. O Lord, You have searched men and known me.
- 2) You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar.
 - 3) You scrutinize my path and my lying down. And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.
 - 4) Even before there is a word on my tongue, behold, Lord, You know it all.
 - 5) You have enclosed me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me.
 - 6) Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it.
 - 7) Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where ca I flee from Your presence?
 - 8) If I ascend to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.
 - 9) If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,
 - 10) Even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me.
 - 11) If is say, ‘Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, and the light around me will be night,’
 - 12) Even the darkness is not dark to You, and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You.”

- FOCUS on with PRIORITY
- AWARE of
- PERCEIVE
- UNDERSTAND what MOTIVATES
- INSIGHT IN THINKING
- PROVIDE PROECTION
- PROVIDE SECURITY
- HOPE brought ad given
- POSITIVE

- VALIDATE
- PROVIDE RELATIONSHIP with SECURITY
- PROVIDE TRUST and GIVES TRUST
- FAITHFULNESS
- ENCOURAGEMENT
- GUIDANCE
- STRENGTH
- UNDERSTANDING
- RESCUE

- **Talking/ i.e. Communication:**
Galatians 4:15 Speaking the Truth in Love
Ephesians 4:25 Speaking the Truth in Love

- **Talking (The Process):**
 - Day by day. (Eph. 4:25)
 - Evaluate self. (Ps. 4:4)
 - Be silent (Ps. 4:4)
 - Pray for wisdom. (Ps. 4:6-8)
 - Effect a reconciliation. (Matt. 5:24)
- **Communication Principles:**
 - Acknowledge - Truth
 - Verbalize - Vocabulary
 - Assertive - Courage/Hope
 - Direction - Self > God > Others
- **Benefit of Talking:**
 - Removes denial: about self, others, circumstances, etc.
 - Volitional responsibility acknowledged.
 - Human weakness acknowledged
 - Directs to God and His strength.
 - Directs others to face reality.
 - Directs to forgiveness.
 - Produces capacity for intimacy.
 - Develops respect:
 - Assertive- Brave, courage
 - In control- Strong, confident
 - Responsive- Caring with principles of virtue
 - Obedience to God.
 - Helps prevent gossip.
- **Forgiveness:**
 - Starts with a need.
 - Does not erase recall.
 - Is not accepting of wrong.
 - Removes charge to account.
 - Does not reinstate respect.
 - Does not establish personal integrity.
 - Is an expression of virtue love.
 - Is a product of hope (trust).
 - Cannot have false expectations/ Allows for change.
 - Has relationship with acknowledgement/ honest.
 - Only benefits virtue.
- **Parents and the Discipline of Controlling Personal Anger**
Ephesians 4:31-32 "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking be put away (with) all malice but be useful, sensitive, forgiving."
- **Unselfish Plans and Pleasant Words:**
NAU Proverbs 15:26 "Evil plans are an abomination to the Lord, but pleasant words are pure."
NLT Proverbs 15:26 "The Lord despises the thought of the wicked, but he delights in pure words."
- **Unconditional Love:**
1 Corinthians 13:4-8
 - **Love is:**
 - Kindness in reference to usefulness
 - Patience in reference to time
 - **Love is not:**
 - Exaggerating
 - Cutting
 - Jealous
 - **Love does not:**

- Boast
- Act without honor
- Control
- Keep records
- Happy with failure
- **Love does:**
 - Rejoice with honesty
 - Supports under all conditions
 - Maintains a positive attitude
 - Expects with confidence
 - Stabilizes under all conditions
- **“Understanding and Communicating with Children”**
 - Motivation and Influence
 - Parenting also means maintaining a high degree of understanding and
 - Communication with our children. (Motivate and influence.)
- **Parents are the Adults:**

NAU 2 Corinthians 12:14 “Here for this third time I am ready to come to you, and I will not be a burden to you; for I do not seek what is yours, but you; for children are not responsible to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.”

NLT 2 Corinthians 12:14 “Now I am coming to you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you. I don’t want what you have; I want you. And anyway little children don’t pay for their parents’ food. It’s the other way around; parents supply food for their children.”
- **The Real “Battle”:**

NLT Proverbs 20:5 “Though good advice lies deep within a person’s (child’s) heart, the wise (parent) will draw it out.”

NLT Proverbs 22:15 “A youngster’s heart is filled with foolishness, but discipline will drive it away.”
- **The Heart:**

NLT Proverbs 2:10 “For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you with joy.

NLT Proverbs 3:1 “My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart.”

NLT Proverbs 3:5 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.”

NLT Proverbs 4:4 “My father told me, ‘Take my words to heart, follow my instructions and you will live.’”

NLT Proverbs 10:20 “The words of the godly are like sterling silver; the heart of a fool is worthless.”

NLT Proverbs 14:33 “Wisdom is enshrined in an understanding heart; wisdom I not found among fools.”

NLT Proverbs 15:13 “A glad heart makes a happy face; a broken heart crushes the spirit.”

NLT Proverbs 17:3 “Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the LORD tests the heart.”

“Successful Parents Understand How to Motivate and Provide for Their Children!!!”

- **What Makes Your Kid Tic?**
 - Basic needs: if and how they are supplied.
 - Standards: what they are and if they are believed.
 - Reality orientation: absolute or circumstantial.
 - Basic Human Needs:
 - Unconditional (Love)
 - Identity: Christ, self, body, priorities
 - Communication: Spoken, mimicked
 - Direction: Word, principles, code, beliefs
 - Boundaries: Discipline, divine, human

- Security: Protection, predictability
- Modeling: Righteous, unrighteous
- Balance: No negative, extremes
- Attention: Recognition, encouragement, warmth
- Validation: Worth, value, purpose, destiny
- Standards: what they are and if they are believed (code).
 - Truth (knowledge)
 - Believe (trust)
 - Live (apply)
- Reality Orientation (Real Expectations):
 - Divine Truth (absolute): confidence- hope: living a lie
Proverbs 13:12 “Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when dreams come true, there is life and joy.”
 - Circumstantial Truth: wisdom: suspiciousness
1 Timothy 6:4 “Anyone who teaches anything different is both conceited and ignorant. Such a person has an unhealthy desire to quibble over the meaning of words. This stirs up arguments ending in jealousy, fighting, slander, and evil suspicions.”

Session 3: Effective Parenting God’s Way:

- **“Understanding and Communication with Children.”**
 - Motivation and Influence
 - Parenting also means maintaining a high degree of understanding and communication with our children. (Motivate and influence.)
- **“Successful Parents are Aware of the Real “Battle” in Parenting!!!”**
NLT Proverbs 23:16 “Yes, my heart will thrill when you speak what is right and just.”
- **Know Your Children:**
- **Children are Mimicry by Nature:**
NAU John 13:15 “For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.”
NLT 1 Peter 5:3 “Don’t lord it over people assigned to your care, but lead them by your good example.”
- **Parenting Communication:**
 - Listening
 - Empathy
 - Timely talk
 - Openness and Honesty
 - Nagging
 - Quarreling
 - Anger
 - Resolving anger
- **Train and Nurture the Heart of Your Child:**
 - Know the heart of your child
 - Relationship
 - Encourage, nurture, train for boys
 - Battles, adventures, romance, and marriage
 - Encourage, nurture, train for girls
 - Wisdom to identify stability
 - Strong enough for adventure
 - Know where beauty is found
- **Dealing with Rebellion:**
 - **Simple Rebellion:**

- This comes from Old Nature
- Selfishness, expediency, discontent
- Need to satisfy passion, flesh, etc.
- **Complex Rebellion:**
 - This comes from imposed hurt and pain (abandonment)
 - Abuse, control, intimidation, fear, etc
 - Reaction is anger, etc
- **“Parents Must Know How to Unconditionally Love Their Children.”**
- **The Effect of Your Marriage:**
 - Family is designed to be Marriage Centered not child centered
 - Children are to Honor Parents

Session Four: Effective Parenting God’s Way

- **“Focus on Character, Integrity, and Honor.”**
 NAU Proverbs 12:28 “In the way of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death.”
 NLT Proverbs 12:28 “The way of the godly leads to life; their path does not lead to death.”
 - Basics of problem solving
 - Effective parenting requires an understanding of God’s Truth in application to character, integrity, and honor in relationship.
- **Know and Communicate Value:**
 NLT Proverbs 22:6 “Teach your children to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain upon it.”
- **Basic Character Issues**
 - Honesty
 - Serving others before Self
 - Compassion
 - Hard Work
 - Responsibility
 - Respect for Authority
 - Humility
- **Integrity and Character Produces Confidence, Security, and Motivation:**
 NAU Proverbs 2:7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity.
 NLT Proverbs 2:7 He grants a treasure of good sense to the godly. He is their shield, protecting those who walk with integrity.
- **Integrity and Character Produces Love for God:**
 NAU Proverbs 10:9 He who walks in integrity walks securely. But he who perverts his ways will be found out.
 NLT Proverbs 10:9 People with integrity have firm footing, but those who follow crooked paths will slip and fall.
- **Integrity and Character Produces Direction and Good Choices:**
 NAU Proverbs 11:3 The integrity of the upright will guide them. But the crookedness of the treacherous will destroy them.
 NLT Proverbs 11:3 Good people are guided by their honesty; treacherous people are destroyed by their dishonesty.
- **Integrity and Character is a Product of the Love of God and His Righteousness:**
 NAU Psalm 15:1 A Psalm of David. O LORD, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill?
2) He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart.
 NLT Psalm 15:1 A psalm of David. Who may worship in your sanctuary, LORD? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill?

2) Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts.

Session Five: Effective Parenting God's Way

- "Be Familiar with Current Culture."
 - Basic insight for caution and adjusting direction in parenting
 - Effective parenting has an understanding of the culture of the family, work culture, and children's peer culture, etc

CONCLUSION AND REVIEW

- **Therefore parents are responsible to be:**
Romans 12:5-21 "Hardworking, non-complaining, non-gossiping, honoring, understanding, patient, forgiving, effective in commitment to others, oriented to authority, wise, absent of bitterness, control of self and anger, disciplined, able to delay self-gratification, assertive, full of joy, secure, confident, putting others before self, communicative, honorable, full of integrity, pursuant of Truth, socially effective, hospitable, effective in problem solving, mature, secure and stable in order to be an effective parent."
- **Parents Know Grace**
- **Marriage (Oneness)**
- **Communication With Children**
- **Parents Know Real Value**
- **Parents And The Culture**
- **The Effect of Your Life:**
 - You are what children see and model
 - Children are mimonic
 - Have a heart that can be seen
 - Love God visibly
 - Be more than what you say
- **Sowing Seeds of Grace (Through Each Family):**
1 Corinthians 3:6 "My job was to plant the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God, not we, who made it grow."
 - Our job is to plant the seed in others hearts, and allow others to water it, and to trust it was God to make it grow.
 - We are to plant the seed of salvation, the Good News of Jesus Christ and the sustaining news of His Word.
- **Unselfish Plans and Pleasant Words:**
NAU Proverbs 15:26 Evil plans are an abomination to the LORD, But pleasant words are pure.
NLT Proverbs 15:26 The LORD despises the thoughts of the wicked, but he delights in pure words.