

## Parenting in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Series: "The Jesus Way: How God Informs Every Season of Life"

Psalm 127:3 (1809)

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A Pep Talk from Kid President to You

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=28&v=l-gQLqv9f4o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=28&v=l-gQLqv9f4o)

### I. The family under fire

#### a. Parenting has never been an easy task

i. Even in the best of situations parenting can be a very taxing task  
Franklin P. Jones "You can learn many things from children. How much patience you have, for instance."

ii. Add to that the challenges of broken relationships, single parenting, health issues, financial pressures, family dysfunction... tough job!

iii. But I think it is fair to say that the challenges have increased substantially over the past quarter century simply because of what children are now exposed to on a daily basis.

iv. There have always been ugly things in the world that we parents have tried to protect our kids from.

v. But never before have our children had the access to those things in their pocket, on the computer, the TV, in the media as they do today

#### b. The Bible warns us that challenges will only increase

2 Timothy 3:1-3 NLT *You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. <sup>2</sup>For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. <sup>3</sup>They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good.*

i. I understand that we sincerely want to believe that we humans are evolving and constantly getting better...

ii. ...Sadly, I think the truth is more that we are regressing

iii. Satan longs to destroy families... but God's Word gives some clear direction to help us thrive... if we will only listen and obey...

### II. The Bible also gives us clear direction on raising healthy kids

#### a. Celebrate the privilege of parenting

i. Being a parent is one of the greatest blessings anyone can receive  
Psalm 127:3 NLT *Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.*

ii. Parenting helps to give significant meaning to our lives  
Erma Bombeck "Children make your life important."

iii. Being a parent is one of the greatest learning opportunities we will ever have

Angela Schwandt "While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about."

#### b. Don't mindlessly buy into the latest fad in parenting

i. Parenting ideas come and go... (some good, some bad, some neutral)

ii. And all things must be evaluated in the light of biblical principles

Romans 12:2 TM *Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.*

- iii. Not every detail will be addressed, but one thing is simply true in our culture—the lie that *more* is always better
- iv. For example, many families have forfeited one of the most important learning tools any child can have—a healthy bit of boredom!

Fred Rogers *"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood."*

**c. Hold to time-honored biblical counsel**

- i. One of the clearest examples = appropriate discipline...

Ephesians 6:1-3 NIV *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.<sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—<sup>3</sup> "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."*

Colossians 3:20-21 NIV <sup>20</sup> *Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.<sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

- 1. What embitters? Indecisive/spineless parenting; unreasonable discipline; contradictory discipline
- 2. Cure—firm... fair... consistent...

- ii. Parents must pro-actively manage the distractions children face today

Proverbs 22:15 TM *Young people are prone to foolishness and fads; the cure comes through tough-minded discipline.*

- iii. I know it's controversial, but some children still need corporal discipline

Proverbs 23:13-14 TM *Don't be afraid to correct your young ones; a spanking won't kill them. A good spanking, in fact, might save them from something worse than death.*

**d. Be the kind of people your children want to imitate**

- i. Determine to live a life that your kids can be proud of & want to imitate

Proverbs 17:6 NLT *Grandchildren are the crowning glory of the aged; parents are the pride of their children.*

- ii. If you want them to live a Jesus life... you must live a Jesus life!

Jim Henson *"[Kids] don't remember what you try to teach them. They remember what you are."*

- iii. How do I accomplish this? In every ordinary situation of life...

Romans 12:1 TM *Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.*

**e. Never underestimate the key role mom and dad play**

- i. It's all too easy to think our primary role as parents is provision alone

Billy Graham *"The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith."*

- ii. Mom & dad—YOU are still the GREATEST influence in your child's life!

- iii. So make good use of every opportunity you have...

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 NLT <sup>4</sup> *"Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.<sup>5</sup> And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.<sup>6</sup> And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today.<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup> Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders.<sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

3 (1809)

**CONC:**

- We have the privilege of shaping the people we will be in the next generation!
- Franklin D. Roosevelt *"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."*