

## Shepherds

### From Ted Tripp's *Shepherding a Child's Heart*

## A Biblical view of authority

God calls His creatures to live under authority. You must fully accept this role of parenting as God sees it and not be embarrassed by it. You exercise authority as God's agent and you do not raise your children to please "you". You raise them to please God. God calls us to be authorities that are truly kind and lay down our lives for our children. We are asked, by God, to create human beings that will be self-controlled, living freely under the authority of God.

You must teach your children to obey and honor you because they are called by God to obey and honor you. You exercise authority not as a cruel taskmaster, but as a parent who loves them. Children generally do not resist authority that is kind and selfless.

A parent is a child's guide. We help our children understand the "why" of their action and lead them on a path of self discovery that is filled with wisdom and discernment. Open and honest communication unfolds the meaning and purpose of life itself. There is self-disclosure and sharing.

We are not to just discuss, we are to demonstrate the freshness and vitality of life lived in integrity before God and the family. Parenting is shepherding your child's heart in the ways of God's wisdom.

We can realistically have the expectation that our children's hearts will be won by the power of God to salvation. The expectation is based on the power of the gospel and its suitability to meet our needs. The central



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focus of parenting is the gospel. We are asked to direct the attitudes of the heart. We must help our children see that God works from the inside out.

This approach is not an easy approach...it is God's approach. We must be careful not to give non-Biblical counsel. Our approach with our children must remain authentic. If they are being bullied or mistreated, we will be wise to call on the supernatural grace it takes to pray for those who mistreat you, and do good to our oppressors. We call them to trust God to judge and it bring us and our children face-to-face with the poverty of our own spirits and the need for the transforming power of the gospel.

God's ways are not natural for man. They are only achieved through God's supernatural grace. Ultimately our children must internalize the message of the gospel. Honest scrutiny never harmed the message of God's love.

### **Commentary on Part of the Book' Introduction**

I went back to the introduction to "Shepherding a Child's Heart". I realized I have adopted much of what Tripp explains in this introduction.

- By age 10-12 most children in America have "left home". They no longer accept the authority of their parents.
- Many parents consider children a liability in their upward climb in the corporate world, so they don't spend much time with them.
- Children are no longer disciplined at home or in school. They do not easily accept any authority over them. They do not accept a submissive role with anyone.
- We need to go back to using the Bible as the authoritative book for parenting. God reveals to us all we need to know about the position of authority parenting gives us.

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