

# SCOTTLINK

With grateful hearts, we say thank you for  
your prayers and financial partnership.

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## The Biblical Living Series: Parenting Part 2: The Center of Parenting

To wrap up our Biblical Living Series, let's take a look at what is meant to be at the center of parenting. The center of everything for that matter. In our culture today we see the effects of off-center parenting. If it's the *American Idol* complex, of 'he or she is the greatest' singer (or whatever they are doing) but in reality they can't carry a tune, or the *Empty Nest* complex, where the parents push their children off on others buying time until they are 'free'. What must be at the center of parenting is the glory of God revealed through the gospel. It isn't centered solely on the child, nor centered on the parent, but on the glory of God.

### Elements of a 'Parent-centered' home (major areas):

*Pride* leads parents to think they are always right or they are slow to admit their faults and seek forgiveness. Proverbs 16:25, "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." When was the last time you asked your child to forgive you?

*Control* brings a parent to expect children to obey them, but the parent disobeys authority, especially God. This parent may drive like a maniac, then gets angry when their son or daughter gets in trouble at school for acting up in the classroom.

*Hypocrisy* expects children to behave one way, but justifies their own poor behavior. I fall into this one most, I think. I expect my girls to be disciplined with their time, but I find myself behind or neglectful with important tasks.

*Business* neglects having healthy time with their spouse and each child. They never stay in one place long enough to know much about those who are in their home and distance prevails.

*Inconsistency* enforces rules and correction one day, but not at all the next day. Feelings often rule these situations. Proverbs 20:6 "Most men will proclaim everyone his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?"

*Self-centered* is one who where all decisions and choices are totally based on the parent and his or her wishes. Philippians 2:4 "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

*Impatient* is the idea that I want my child to do \_\_\_\_\_ RIGHT NOW! (reacting)

*Expectations* pressures the child to be, do, and become everything the parents expect of them. There is often little concern for character, rather ultra concern for performance and reputation.

*Idolatry* makes the parent's desires of the flesh more important than pleasing the Lord out of gratitude for the mercy God has shown them. Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before me."

(How can we know when something is an idol? How do you respond when you don't get what you want. Are you willing to sin in order to get what you want?)

### Elements of a 'Child-Centered' home:

*No consequences*, when a child clearly sins and the parents allow him or her with no consequences.

*Manipulation* often is a child reacting in anger, clams-up, or cries to get what he or she wants with no parental instruction or discipline.

*Selfishness* is evidenced when the child gets whatever he or she wants with no re-



gard for others. Parents are to instruct children that Christ modeled for us a suffering servant. Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

*Demanding*, insists that things be done his way and when he wants it. I see this impacting many ministry families because their children *must* be in bed by a certain time or in a certain place.

*Priorities* are shaped around the child and their importance above everything else, including the marriage at times.

*Responsibilities* are not expected of the child, because a good parent does everything for their children.

*Communication* is from the child to the parent demanding the parent what to do as if the child is equal in authority.

*Never offend* works to do anything the parent can do to NOT offend their child.

**The Characteristics of a ‘God-Centered’ home:**

*Truth:* The source of truth (inspired & sufficient Word of God).

2 Timothy 3:15-16 “And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”

*Worship:* Loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and loving others.

Matthew 22:37-39 “And he [Jesus] said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

*Glorifying God:* By thinking and acting like Christ.

Philippians 2:5 “Have this attitude [humility] in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.”

*Gospel:* Who Christ is and who you are in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17,21 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come...For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

“The concept of a God-centered home is derived from the biblical principle that the purpose of every Christian is to glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31; 1 Cor. 6:30). In contrast to a child-centered home, where pleasing and serving the child is the dominant theme, the God-centered home is one in which everyone is committed to pleasing and serving God. God’s desires are exalted over everyone else’s. Everyone in the family may be expected to sacrifice personal pleasure if God’s will requires it. This philosophy teaches children to serve rather than be served, to honor rather than be honored, to give (to loving rather than take [be selfish].” (Lou Priolo, *The Heart of Anger*, 26-27).

**Prayer and Praise:**

Pray for Brooklyn, Kylie and Jadyn as they get back into school after the holiday break.

Pray for Tom and Robyn as they gear up for the Spring semester. Students return January 30th.

Pray for John and Ronda Lovejoy (Robyn’s sister) as they seek to abide in Christ while John endures a battle against esophageal cancer.

Pray for our country and Donald Trump as he becomes our 45th president.

Praise the Lord for his generosity through so many who gave to our year-end appeal.

Praise the Lord for his Word that reveals himself to his people and through the knowledge of him we have all we need for life and godliness (1 Peter 1:3).

Praise the Lord for his example for parenting. He is patiently gracious in his discipline and instruction towards his children.

Praise the Lord for there is no authority except that which God has established (past or present). The authorities that exist have been established by God.—Romans 13:1. Our God reigns!