

I'm Not The Perfect Parent - September 1, 2019

Ted Cunningham

Part One "I've Made Mistakes, But I'll Keep Trying"

This was a message for all parents whether our children are still at home or grown and on their own. Pastor Ted made it clear that 'Parenting ain't for wimps' and 'Parenting is for a season, but being a parent is for a lifetime.'

Discuss: Your experiences with the outworking of these verses as you have raised your children, remembering that these are parenting essentials.

Matthew 7:9-11 Jesus reminded us that even though we are evil, we know how to give; Bread instead of a stone, fish instead of a snake. How does our Heavenly Father give when we ask him?"

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Obedience is for a season, honor is for a lifetime."

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Proverbs 1:8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

Deuteronomy 6:5-7 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

"God's design for the home is perfect. The homes of God's people, however, have never been—nor do I suspect ever will be—perfect." - Ron Deal

Discuss: The issue of non essentials, and how they can be distractions for the essentials. Some of those mentioned were: Baby formula, binkies, vaccines, bus, family bed, child care, school choice, discipline, Halloween, Star Wars, technology, etc.

Discuss: The difficulty we face when discipline is necessary. How did Paul, and how do we as parents deal with discipline, and the results of it with our kids? Refer to 2 Corinthians 7:2:4 and 7:8-10

Some final words of encouragement were offered to help us deal with the results of our parenting.

1. Give yourself permission to learn and grow the same way you want your child to learn and grow.
2. Stop explaining and defending your parenting choices to critics.

3. Apologize, but don't demand forgiveness.
4. Be the adult without expecting your child to return the favor.
5. Don't let regrets from the past and choices your children are now making keep you from spending time together.
6. Keep your mouth shut and the welcome mat out.
7. Seek encouragement and advice from older parents.

Ted announced that thousands of dollars has been given to provide shoes for children. Following up on the last series on "Generosity", how did the announcement make you feel about our church?