

Spiritual Parenting and Discipleship

Sunday, March 17, 2019

Part 4

Review

Big Idea: We're all responsible for reproducing the character of Christ in others (Galatians 4:19)

Some of those people happen to have biological ties to us, but from God's perspective, the project is the same:

The end goal of parenting natural and spiritual children is for them to grow spiritually.

The goal is to help other people mature.

We all have a spiritual legacy to leave behind one way or another.

Our own growth is tied to the growth of others.

God wants us to mature by imitating His ways directly (e.g. through the Word, His Spirit) and by imitating people who imitate Him.

From Duplication to Multiplication

God is interested in much more than duplication. He wants multiplication.

God wants to reproduce Himself many times over. He created the earth to be filled with His children.

Multiplication completes God's original plan to fill the earth with children who glorify Him (Genesis 1:28).

What Would Jesus Do? (Matthew 19:2-9)

When He is asked about marriage,

- Jesus takes us back to the beginning.
 - The original royal decree has never been revoked.

- All new practices and beliefs on marriage and sexuality must be weighed against decrees made before the Fall.
- Jesus acknowledges the place of human ethics, law and practice,
 - Human beings create practices, beliefs and ethics around lived experiences and their capacities to investigate the world.
 - Human beings create categories of knowledge based on these experiences and investigations (e.g. biology, psychology, sociology, cultural studies, anthropology, law, human rights, communications, history, etc.)
 - Every human sphere of knowledge has a logic of its own based upon what it considers valid.
 - The validity of human logic is based on presuppositions.
 - What is a presupposition?
 - pre = before;
supposition = assumption or belief
 - Something you believe beforehand.
 - A foundational belief about reality that sits in the background of your mind.
 - Everything else you believe is based on it.
- Jesus identifies the human heart as both the problem and implicit solution.
 - Heart change = presupposition change.
 - A presupposition is a rule.

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- God wants to get you out of your rule rut.
- Proverbs 4:23 - Out of your heart flows the springs (or rules) of life.
- Mark 11:23 – Your mountain moves once your rules about mountains change.
- Doubt = a belief (or rule) about the opposite outcome.

If Jesus were to weigh in on our current debates about marriage and sexuality, He would not be focused on people changing their sexuality, but on them changing their hearts.

People resist the ways of God because of the hardness of their hearts.

The issue is not your sexuality, but the status of your heart before God.

Pray that you have a heart like David. He was a man who struggled with sexual sin, but who was a man after God's heart and who loved God's law (i.e. His rules).

- I Samuel 13:14
- I Samuel 16:7