**Finding Grace**

**Grace for the Family**

**Those Crazy Kids -- Biblical Truth for Parenting Well**

**Romans 6:23** - *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**2 Corinthians 9:15** - *Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*

**Proverbs 31:10** - *An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels.*

**Psalm 127:3** - *Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is his reward.*

1. Parenting is one of the most important, challenging, and potentially fulfilling roles you'll ever attempt.

2. There is a place in this message for every person here.

3. This subject gives us a great reason to move toward the throne of grace.

**Hebrews 4:16** - *Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

3 aspects of the parenting task that especially necessitate God's amazing grace.

**I. Seek Grace so You Don't Provoke Your Children to Anger**

A. Apply the parenting principles of Ephesians 6:4 in light of the context of the gospel of grace emphasized thus far in the book.

**Ephesians 1:2** - *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Ephesians 1:5-7** - *He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace*

**Ephesians 2:7** - …*so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

**Ephesians 3:2** - …*if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace which was given to me for you…*

**Ephesians 4:7** - *But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.*

B. "Provoke" means don't do anything that causes or allows your child to develop a wrathful lifestyle.

**Proverbs 25:28** - *Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit.*

1. Being an angry person yourself

**Proverbs 22:24** - *Do not associate with a man given to anger; or go with a hot-tempered man…*

**Hebrews 4:16** - *Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

2. Allowing your children to be sinfully angry without consequences

**1 Kings 1:5-6** - *Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, “I will be king.” So he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen with fifty men to run before him. His father had never crossed him at any time by asking, “Why have you done so?” And he was also a very handsome man, and he was born after Absalom.*

3. Trying to help your children avoid sinful anger through rules and moralism instead of the gospel of grace.

**II. Seek Grace so that Your Discipline is Purposeful**

A. The meaning of discipline

paideia – control, train, discipline, correct

B. The purpose of discipline

**Galatians 3:24** - *Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.*

C. The beauty of discipline

1. Fruit of the Spirit

**Galatians 5:22-23** - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

2. Foundation of growth

**1 Timothy 4:7** - *…discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness…*

3. Producer of maturity

**Hebrews 12:11** - *All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.*

**III. Seek Grace so that Your Teaching is Effective**

A. Meaning of instruction

**Proverbs 4:23** - *Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.*

B. Not necessarily "another something"

**Deuteronomy 6:5-7** - *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.*

C. Take advantage of our church's children's ministries

D. Focus on application

**Matthew 28:19-20** - *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

E. Rejoice in the potential results

**3 John 4** - *I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.*