



Key Thoughts: Anger at our children is often anger at our idols of control, reputation, and success.

Key Question: How do we raise children according to God's gospel priorities?

Read Ephesians 6:1-4

Foundation Relationships:

Anger at our children is often anger at our own idols because they failed us and therefore we say, "I have failed." God, in his wisdom, does not give us a checklist to follow for parenting, which could feed our idolatry. Rather, he gives us an architecture that functions with the uniqueness of our families and builds up our children on the truth of Scripture by his grace. The foundation of the architecture for raising children in the Lord is relationships.

1) A parent's anger at their children is more often truly anger at their own idols not producing what they promised. What are some of the common idols parents struggle with? How does that often impact them and their families?

- What impact can asking the Lord's, a spouse's, and/or a child's forgiveness for your idolatry and your anger towards them?
- How does having relationships as the foundation of our parenting help us reflect the face of Christ to each other and the world?

1st Building Block: A Loving Relationship with God

Before God tells us what it means to love a child, he tells us about a loving relationship with him and what it means to love the Body of Christ. Our loving relationship with God is the first building block of the foundation for parenting. Parents also learn the great value and necessity of the body of Christ in raising kids.

2) During Covid-19 and above all things, why do we need to know the love the Heavenly Father for us?

- What does it look like for a parent to embrace God's love and the security he gives them?
- What makes intentionally including our children in the life of the church family so important?
- What can we expect when a child is surrounded by those who don't just go to church but are the church who loves God and reflects the face of Christ to that child and the world?

2nd Building Block: A Loving Relationship with Spouse

The second best gift parents can give their children, following a loving relationship with the Lord, is our second building block, a loving and secure relationship with their spouse. They must treasure their marriage.

3) List all the reasons having a loving relationship with a spouse is so important in raising children in the Lord. For each of those things on the list share the long-term and even eternal fruit it can produce.

Q's for Kids:

- 1) **When do you feel the most scared? Why? When do you feel the safest? Why?**
- 2) **What relationships did God give you that he put in your life to help you grow up in Christ?**
- 3) **What could your parents (or grandparents) do to help you grow stronger in your love for Jesus?**