

Grace-Based Parenting

(Part 1 – Getting God’s Perspective on Our Children)

- I. Grace means seeking to parent our children the way God will parent them as adults.
 - A. The discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4)
 - B. Don’t provoke/embitter (Ephesians 6:4; also Col. 3:21)
- II. Grace means being confident of God’s work in our kids instead of parenting out of fear.
- III. Grace means showing God’s unconditional love, not performance-based approval.
- IV. Grace means understanding that sin is an internal issue, not an external one.
 - External compliance or non-compliance doesn’t prove a child’s “heart attitude” toward God (Matthew 15:10-20).
- V. Grace means putting the priority on the relationship, not rules.
 - A. God treats us with compassion because He values the relationship with us (Psalm 103:8-14).
 - B. Grace accomplishes obedience better because relationships motivate, but rules don’t (Titus 2:11-12).
- VI. Grace means distinguishing between different parenting issues (Matthew 23:23,24).

✳ Absolutes (Morals, ethics and all specific bible commands) <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Sexuality, Honesty...	✳ Enforce Absolutes: Morality, integrity, respect, humility responsibility etc.
✳ Convictions (Life choices we make as a family based on <u>biblical</u> principles) <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Modesty, Movies, Alcohol...	✳ Teach Convictions: Enforce, but teach and then gradually let go so our children learn to let God lead them.
✳ Preferences (What I <i>like</i> , but is not clearly addressed by biblical principles; wisdom issues) <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Music, hair, clothes...	✳ Allow Preferences: Based on age, while teaching wisdom and sensitivity to others.