

Resetting Our Parenting Paradigm
Your Parenting Environment

I. Are we/our children products of our/their environment?

A. Yes:

1. The environment in which we grew up does have an affect on us even into adulthood. From the simple things, like what kind of food you like/dislike, to the most critical; how you naturally communicate, solve problems, etc.
2. The same will be true about your children. You and I must provide our children with an overall environment which will encourage godliness.

B. No:

1. Your environment does have an affect and does help explain why you tend to do certain things, but it is never an excuse. In Christ you have a new “environment” and are not trapped by your past or your family up bringing.
2. There are some things about your children’s environment you cannot control. They too are not trapped by them. You and I must use the things we can control to demonstrate to our children and teach them how to live godly in a sin cursed world.

II. Scripture Principles

A. Deuteronomy 6:3-9 (Much of this is review of last week’s S.S.)

1. The truth of God’s Word must be real in your life before you can pass it on to your children. (vs. 3-6)
2. Your teaching your children to be godly is not a once-a-day event, but all-day-life-style. (vs. 7)
3. Your children should be surrounded by God’s Word and godly influence as much as possible throughout the day. (vs. 8,9)

B. II Timothy 3:14-17

1. Paul reminds Timothy that the saving truth of God’s Word had been given to him since infancy. (vs. 14,15)
2. Paul instructs Timothy that this same Word of God is all he needs to live a Godly life. (vs. 16,17).

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III. Practical Applications:

-- THIS TAKES LOTS OF TIME!

A. Talk to your children. Talk to your children. Talk to your children.

- Understand them, what they need and what they can handle.

B. Read them age appropriate books that teach godly character.

C. Listen to quality music or other children's material that will encourage godly character.

D. Help them learn to be active, involved members of the family.

E. Let them see Mom and Dad communicate and solve problems.

F. Be on the look out for "teaching moments." Could be a question they ask, a conflict with a sibling, something you see together. Will generally not happen at a "convenient" time.

G. Specifically and intentionally help "see God" throughout their day.

H. Shower them with praise. Notice and acknowledge the "little" things.

I. Communicate to them that you love them, and just as important that you like them.