

## **Audacious**

It is extremely audacious of me to talk about parenting

What I will share is about parenting, but it's for everyone, it's about everyone's spiritual journey

## **Be better**

What we normally teach our children and ourselves

- Be better
- Try harder
- Win my approval
- Be good enough

## **Our problem**

- We are bad
- We will never be good enough, do enough good things, to truly be good enough
- We get stuck, and our kids get stuck, in a performance loop (always trying to be better, to win our approval, to be good enough)

This sets them up to understand morality and legalism, but not grace

This sets them up to never feel worthy

This sets them up to feel that who they are is dependent on what they do (and not good enough)

## **Big Idea: The most important thing you could teach your children is the gospel**

Efesios 6:4

Romans 1:17

## **What do you mean, get them saved?**

- We think the Gospel means how to get saved - it does
- But it is also by believing the Gospel that we continue to grow in God
- It is how we start, and continue to the end

So the most important thing to teach your child is how to relate to God.

- The Gospel teaches us that

## **What is the Gospel?**

- God created us, and all things, in perfection
- We are desperately wicked, we rebel against God & try to be our own God
- God pursues us in justice and love
- The apex of God's pursuit is Jesus and the Cross
- Through Him, we receive God's grace; Jesus' perfect life, payment for sin in his death, & victory over our sin and death in his resurrection

## **How do you teach that to your children?**

- Put the glory of God before them as their primary motivation
- Mirror God

- Use the law to show them their brokenness
- Use punishment to show them the consequences of their wickedness
- Approve of them unconditionally
- Teach them their identity and sonship is not based on what they do, but your grace and God's grace
- Always point them to the cross
  - When they sin "that is why Jesus died"
  - Ultimate hope for their brokenness - being made new
  - Ultimate forgiveness
  - Ultimate Sonship

### **Application:**

Maybe this morning you can see how you are lax in your parenting, you aren't teaching your children justice and consequences and using the law to show them their brokenness. Repentance would be to not be any less demanding of your children than God is.

Maybe this morning you can see how you have created a culture of performance, your children have to work for your approval, their identity depends on them being good enough. Repentance would be to model God's unconditional love and acceptance of his children to them.

Maybe this morning you can see how you are really good about teaching your children religion; the rules, morality, being good, looking like you are good, saying the right things, even knowing the Bible. However, you don't teach them the gospel or the gospel story. Repentance for you would be to make this the underlying narrative of everything you teach the children about God and the Bible.

Maybe this morning you realize you have never entered into this story. Maybe you can't imagine a father who loves you unconditionally, in spite of how messed up you are. As we celebrate babies and families today, God invites you to become his child. To enter into his absolute love and acceptance in Christ. You enter when you believe in Jesus, and in faith respond to him in repentance and baptism.