

# BIG Picture Parenting

## (15 Foundational Principles)

desert breeze  
community church



Saturday & Sunday, Sept 30, Oct 1, 2017 Ray Davis

### Part Three: “Character”

It's not what happens to me (circumstances) but what happens in me (character) that either makes me or breaks me in life. Character is about spiritual maturity (Christ-likeness). A student's character becomes like his teacher (Luke 6:40). It's God's amazing GRACE that transforms my HEART and produces Godly CHARACTER.

#### 11) Not all the wrong your children do is a direct rebellion to authority; much of the wrong is the result of a lack of character. [Rom1:25, 28-32](#)

- Character is behavior motivated by choices based on godly values.
- Character is a worship issue. Desire for even a good thing can become a bad thing when it becomes a ruling thing.
- Worship realignment is the key to character change.

#### 12) You are parenting a worshiper, so it's important to remember that what rules your child's heart will control his behavior. [Ex20:3](#) [1Cor10:14](#)

- We all give our hearts to the one true God or to some created god replacement.
- Worship is about where we look for life, satisfaction, contentment, identity, belonging, meaning and purpose.
- What our children need is what we need as parents—divine insight, divine conviction, and divine commitment to change at the heart level.

#### 13) The goal of parenting is not control of behavior, but rather heart and life change. [Pro22:6](#)

- Your children need: Guidance ([Pro11:14](#); [Ps31:3](#)), Protection ([Isa31:5](#); [Ps91:1](#)), Instruction ([Ps25:8](#); [Jer35:13](#)), Wisdom ([James1:5](#); [1Cor1:30](#)), Authority ([Rom13:1](#); [Matt28:18](#)), Rules ([Ps19:7](#), [119:151](#)), Structure ([Jer29:11](#); [Ps33:11](#)), Preparation ([Pro16:9](#); [2Pet1:3](#)), Understanding ([Ps119:99](#), [130](#)), Confrontation ([Ps94:10](#); [Heb3:13](#)), Discipline ([Deut8:5](#); [Hb12:6](#)), Warning ([Deut32:46](#); [Ps19:11](#)), Love ([Ex34:6](#); [John3:16](#)), Forgiveness ([Ps130:4](#); [Col3:13](#)), and Security ([Job24:23](#); [Ps12:7](#)).

- Every child's deeper need ([Psalm51](#)): To see their sinful nature problem that causes their behavior problems and their only hope is in the forgiving, redeeming and regenerating grace of God.

#### 14) It is only rest in God's presence and grace that will make you a joyful and patient parent. [Matt28:18-20](#)

- If you face the reality of what your children need and how you struggle as a parent but forget the incalculable glory & grace of God who sent you and is with you, you'll be overwhelmed.
- It's not your weaknesses that you should fear, but your delusions of strength. ([2Cor12:9](#))
- God will expose your weaknesses so that you will run to Him and find rest in His presence, power, peace and provision. Success is about faithfulness, not results.

#### 15) No parent gives mercy better than one who is convinced that he desperately needs it himself. [Heb4:15-16](#)

- Mercy is tenderness, understanding, compassion, love and help.
- Encourage your children to seek God's help by showing them how you seek God's help too.
- Root all that you require, say and do in the wonderful wisdom of Scripture and saturate your home with prayer.

#### Growing Notes

- 1) Read the sermon introduction. What are your thoughts and feelings? What is character and how important is it? How big of a role do leaders, parents, and adults play in the character of the next generation?
- 2) Take time to review and reflect on the five principles and Bible verses. Which one(s) are most convicting? Which one(s) are most comforting?
- 3) What is God speaking to you through this Bible study? What are some things you can do this next week to begin to apply the truths from this study to your life? Pray.