



Parenting: Expectants and Newborns

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Week 3 – Influential Philosophies

INFLUENTIAL PHILOSOPHIES

Outline for the session:

1. A Biblical Worldview
2. A Few Influential Philosophies
3. Child Training Topics
4. Wrap Up/Homework

INTRODUCTION

1. Biblical Worldview

- **Last week we began to set forth God's design for parenting from Scripture. But much like most other areas of the Christian life, the world has a different philosophy and method for handling parenting. This week we want to acquaint you with some of the major philosophies as well as equip you to discern a biblical response.**

Ephesians 4:11-15

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

Colossians 2:1-10

I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. 2 My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. 5 For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is. 6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. 9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

Let's get specific:

- **What are some of the ways Scripture describes the pathway of deception many people will follow?**
- **How does Paul encourage Christians to counter the lies of the world?**

2. A Few Influential Philosophies

What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. 10 Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new"? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time. 11 There is no remembrance of men of old, and even those who are yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow (Ecclesiastes 1:9-11).

Encountering Unbiblical Parenting Philosophies (adapted from *Shepherding a Child's Heart*, by Tedd Tripp, ch. 7)

Let's look at some of the main parenting philosophies:

- *Pop Psychology*

- *Behavior Modification*

- *Emotionalism*

- *Punitive Correction*

- *Erratic Eclecticism*

- *I didn't turn out so bad*

Here are some questions to consider as you encounter the numerous parenting philosophies present today:

1. What are the strains of secular philosophy present (ie: pop psychology, behavior modification; emotionalism; punitive correction; erratic eclecticism, etc.)?
2. What biblical principles or truths are alluded to in this philosophy? Where is it confirmed in Scripture?
3. Working from a biblical framework (ie: correct understanding of God, Man, sin, and the gospel), how might this look in your home?

3. Child Training Topics (See attached chart below)

4. Wrap Up

Homework:

There are a lot of parenting philosophies seeking to captivate your heart, mind, and emotions in relation to how you should raise your children. Take some time to review the material covered in the class as well as finish discussing the Child Training Topics sheets. Commit yourselves to testing everything with Scripture to discern the value of its content in relationship to the model that our Heavenly Father has given us in Scripture.

Child Training Topics

Worldly Goals	Worldly Goals	Discussion Q's
1. A parent's job is to give their child a secure upbringing where fears are removed.	The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9:10 To fear the Lord is to hate evil. Proverbs 8:13a When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me? Psalm 56:3-4	<i>How can you teach your children to handle their fears biblically?</i>
2. I want to make sure my child is able to successfully do what they want and is financially secure when they grow up. Then I will have done my job well and I will be happy.	A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother. Proverbs 10:1 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8	<i>How can you model a biblical view of success and finances for your child in everyday life?</i>
3. I want my children to have the things I didn't have as a child. I want to be able to buy them what they would like.	A greedy man brings trouble to his family. Proverbs 15:27a No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. Matthew 6:24 Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 7:9-12	<i>How can you teach your child about contentment as well as God's sovereign and sufficient provision?</i>
4. A parent's job is to give their child a good education, exposing them to all different kinds of things (arts, music, sports, reading, nature etc.). Then their children will be well rounded and successful.	Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Proverbs 4:5-7 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. Psalm 119:9	<i>While all of these are good things to expose your children to, they do not guarantee success and can lead to idolatry. What will it look like to balance this in your home?</i>
5. From the moment a child is born, the parent's job is to meet their every need.	If a man pampers his servant from youth, he will bring grief in the end. Proverbs 29:21 For I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:11b-13 The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he moved our transgressions from us. Psalm 103:8-12 (our greatest need is forgiveness of our sins)	<i>What truly are the needs (not wants) of your children?</i>
Worldly Philosophy	Biblical Philosophy	Discussion Q's
1. Parents should let their children make their own decisions.	The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck. Proverbs 1:7-9 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"- which is the first commandment with a promise- "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Ephesians 6:1-3	<i>How can you train and guide your children in biblical decision making?</i>

<p>2. There is no one source of knowledge. Children need to be taught to be open minded and accepting of all points of view.</p>	<p>“How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you... Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord, since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their schemes.” Proverbs 1:22-23, 29-31 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life.” John 14:6a</p>	<p><i>How can you teach your children to respond biblically to the culture around them?</i></p>
<p>3. Children are not affected by the media: TV shows, cartoons and movies they watch; music they listen to; the books and magazines they read; the video games etc. they play; the sites they explore on the internet etc.</p>	<p>Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Proverbs 4:23 Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Philippians 4:8 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2</p>	<p><i>Just as we are tempted to mirror the words, attitudes and actions of our culture, so too are our children. How can we help them to discern what is sinful and how to glorify God?</i></p>
<p>4. No one has the right to tell me how to raise my kids or what I am doing wrong.</p>	<p>Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid. Proverbs 12:1 Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge. Proverbs 23:12 Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Galatians 6:1-3</p>	<p><i>How can you biblically respond to someone questioning your parenting?</i></p>
<p>5. It doesn’t really matter who my child plays with or who their friends are. They need to learn to be friends with everyone.</p>	<p>He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm. Proverbs 13:20 Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” 1 Corinthians 15:33</p>	<p><i>What biblical principles can you teach your children regarding their interaction with others?</i></p>
<p>6. It’s not that important for fathers to spend time with their children, or mothers to stay home instead of work.</p>	<p>Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:5-9 Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands so that no one will malign the word of God. Titus 2:4-5</p>	<p><i>What would it look like for you and your spouse to individually spend time with your children at different ages?</i></p>
<p>7. Children are basically good, it is society at large that taints them.</p>	<p>Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him. Proverbs 22:15 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. Isaiah 64:6</p>	<p><i>What words or phrases can you use to give your children a biblical perspective of themselves (created in God’s image, sinner in need of a Savior, etc.)</i></p>
<p>8. I love my wife and kids. That is what really matters.</p>	<p>By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. Proverbs 24:3-4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) 1 Timothy 3:4-5 (qualifications of overseers and deacons; see also v 12)</p>	<p><i>We are called to love our spouse and children, but what does biblical love look like? What are our biblical responsibilities in these relationships?</i></p>
<p>9. It’s important that a child learns to do things on his own. Restraints can discourage him.</p>	<p>The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother. Proverbs 29:15 Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:7b-8</p>	<p><i>How have you seen this done well? Poorly?</i></p>
<p>10. It is good for a child to</p>	<p>A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.</p>	<p><i>Just as we are accountable for our</i></p>

express his emotions and not keep them bottled up inside (ie: anger, sadness, frustration etc., etc.).	Proverbs 29:11 Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18	<i>thoughts, words, and actions when we are tired, stressed out, hungry, or had a bad day... so too our children need to be given biblical expectations. When do you tend to let your emotions rule you?</i>
11. Our marriage is not the greatest, so I will focus more on the kids. At least then I will get something right. They will thank me for all that I do for them.	A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. Proverbs 31:10-12, 17, 26-28 Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands so that no one will malign the word of God. Titus 2:4-5	<i>Your parenting is a reflection of your marriage, the permanent earthly relationship. How can you continue to cultivate your marriage while in the midst of parenting?</i>
12. Children need to see their parents as strong and not making mistakes. Then they will learn how to handle life rightly.	When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. Proverbs 11:2 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 1 John 1:8	<i>How can you learn from the model of your parents in this area?</i>
13. It is not the parent's responsibility to teach their children the things of God, that is what the church is for.	In the future, when your son asks you, "What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the Lord our God has commanded you?" tell him... Deuteronomy 6:20 (read through v 25 for full context) But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15	<i>Your theology will come out in your parenting. How can you teach your children about God in everyday life?</i>
Worldly Discipline	Biblical Discipline	Discussion Q's
1. I wouldn't spank my child because I love them too much. That would be cruel.	He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him. Proverbs 13:24 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Hebrews 12:8	<i>What does loving discipline look like?</i>
2. Parents need to act "tough" around their kids in order to gain their respect.	The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom and humility comes before honor. Proverbs 15:33 The King answered the people harshly. Rejecting the advice given him by the elders, he followed the advice of the young men and said, "My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions." 1 Kings 12:13-14 (see vv. 3-16 for context; Rehoboam, King Solomon's son)	<i>How does God as our Father balance grace and truth towards us?</i>
3. I know that my child is not the best behaved, but they will outgrow it.	Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death. Proverbs 19:18 And the Lord said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle. At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family – from beginning to end. For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them. Therefore, I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'" 1 Samuel 3:11-14	<i>When your child or another parent's child is acting sinfully, how do you respond? What do you tend to think, say, and do?</i>
4. I would never spank my child because it might hurt them. Besides, I don't want to teach my child to hit people.	No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:11 Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right. Proverbs 20:11	<i>Although discipline has been abused in many cases, it is still part of God's loving design for accomplishing his purposes in the lives of our children. How can you embrace this reality?</i>
5. I resent having to train, correct and at times, care for my child. Parenting is too much work and interferes with what I want to	When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous. Proverbs 21:15a Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4	<i>How might you provoke your children to anger while disciplining and caring for them?</i>

accomplish.		
6. Spanking a child is not that important. There are many more effective and kind ways to discipline a child.	Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death. Proverbs 23:13-14 "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? Hebrews 12:5-7	<i>How can you balance discipline with logical consequences that result from their disobedience?</i>
7. I'm afraid that if I spank my child, they will not like me.	Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul. Proverbs 29:17 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Hebrews 12:9	<i>What is a biblical expectation of how your child should view you?</i>

Material adapted from Roy Lessin's *Spanking: Why, When, How?*, 94-96.