



TALK IT OVER

The Heart of Parenting

BOTTOM LINE

Parenting is a lifelong connecting process.

CONVERSATION STARTER

What's a moment or a time period in your growing up that your parent/parents got right?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointe.org/daily
- [Parenting in the 21st Century](#) - 30 minutes with Andy Stanley

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires. 2 Peter 1:3-4 NLT

Children are going to do foolish things. But correcting them will drive that foolishness far away. Proverbs 22:15 NIRV

"Your children must learn early that they have been born into a world of authority, and they're not it. Submission to authority that is not me is unnatural for any sinner. Sin makes us want our own way. Sin makes us want to set our own rules. Sin convinces all of us that we know better. Sin causes me to want to do what I want to do when and how I want to do it." – Dwight Mason

"Your parenting is always shaped by where you look for identity." – Dwight Mason

"Created things were never designed to give you identity." – Dwight Mason

TALK IT OVER

How does the fact that our parenting is shaped by where we look for our identity give our children so much ability to hurt us, cause us to lose sleep, rob us of joy, make us angry, and humiliate us? Where do you see your identity too tied to your children? How does Peter point us to Christ for our identity? Practically, how do you step into getting your identity vertically? Where are you most tempted to find your identity horizontally? How do you know if you are trying to find it through your children? What does it look like to embrace the process? Discuss the danger of the twin lies: autonomy and self-sufficiency. How do we and our children buy into these? Discuss how you can appropriately share your struggles and need for grace with your children. Where do you need God's work to start in your own heart?

ACTION STEP

I will daily work with God to find my identity and sufficiency in Him through ongoing conversation with Him. I will deepen my reliance on His promises and presence in my family, sharing His grace through the process of parenting.