

Creating an Atmosphere of Grace

What we do makes more of an impact than what we say!

FOCUS ON THE HEART INSTEAD OF THE BEHAVIOUR

Grace helps us maintain BALANCE between Legalism and License in our parenting.

LEGALISM: Rules without relationship lead to rebellion.

LICENSE: Relationships without rules leads to resentment.

GRACE AND TRUTH

TRUTH is a clear light that illuminates our children's way through the dark and shadowy corridors of youth.

GRACE is the heart commitment to keep that light shining brightly no matter what.

GRACE-BASED PARENTING is showing the kind of grace to our kids that God shows to us.

Creating an Atmosphere of Grace begins by understanding the **three basic needs** of your kids.

1.

2.

3.

FREEDOM TO BE DIFFERENT

The primary way to give our kids grace is to offer it in place of our selfish preferences. So much grace is stolen in the heat of the moment by our selfishness.

We react one of two ways inappropriately:

1. We take things that are huge to our kids and trivialize them.
2. We take small issues and magnify them out of proportion

Our personal preference cannot dictate morality.

What do we do with their differences?



FIRST

Don't get caught up in the externals, focus on the heart.



SECOND

Evaluate what they want to do against Scripture.



THIRD

Check their heart and their relationship with Christ.

FREEDOM TO BE VULNERABLE

Help them learn to balance feeling/fact.

FACTS: things parents see that kids can't always see.

FEELINGS: things kids perceive about the situation they are in.

Don't trivialize!

1 Peter 5:7 *Cast all your anxiety on him because He cares for you.*

Our example is powerful!

FREEDOM TO BE CANDID

Honesty can be cruel. Candor is honesty dipped in honour.

FOUR KINDS OF HOMES WE CAN CREATE:

Legalistic homes set children up to be critical.

Fear-based homes set children up to be intimidated by life.

Lawless homes set children up to be dishonouring and self-absorbed

Grace-based homes create an environment that lets our children work through their faith.

FREEDOM TO MAKE MISTAKES

We all make mistakes.

Difference between license and grace.

LICENSE – freedom to sin

GRACE – freedom to deal with sin

Grace demands that you actually walk by faith.

Two extremes:

Legalistic parents maintain a relationship with God through obedience to a standard.

License parents maintain comfort instead of obedience to a standard.

REACTING VS. RESPONDING

Prodigals

1. Resist the urge to beat yourself up. (Proverbs 22:6)
2. Don't give up on them.
3. Don't accommodate or bankroll their rebellion.
4. Be willing to forgive if and when they repent.
5. Resist the urge to replay the pain they put you through.

Remember:

Grace is not as so much what you do, but how you do it.

Grace-based parenting is simply treating your children the way God treats you.