



High Quality Parenting

Listen! How many of you had good role models of how parenting should be done?

Why talk about this? One of the key ways that we learn to do something well is by watching someone who does it well. Where could we find a model parent?

The Big Idea: Our Father in Heaven is a perfect Parent because He:

#1 ...is crazy about us.

#2 ...gives us structure.

#3 ...gives us nurture.

Caution: I cannot make a child “turn out.”

Disclaimer: Please understand what I am not saying:

- ...that children should be treated as the center of the universe or of family!
- ...that children should take precedence over the marriage relationship!
- ...that children should be “bailed out” of the consequences of their choices!

For Example:

Application: Why does my son have a father if not for that father to give him incredible, ongoing, loving, truthful, sacrificial help in this life?

Application: The central issue in raising a child is the parent’s character and nurture and structure and irrational love.

Bottom line: Parenting is not primarily about technique or knowing tricks. Parenting is foundationally about the character and the choices of the parent.

Walking Papers

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk this week.

The Big Idea of this passage: God is the perfect Parent and thus should be imitated because He continually loves us irrationally, gives us structure, and gives us nurture.

Please take time each day this week to think through these questions and ideas:

- **Today:** How have you experienced the irrational love/commitment of God to you? How have you responded?
- **Monday:** What would you need to do to develop an irrational love/commitment to your children—to just be crazy about them? Will you do one thing?
- **Tuesday:** How have you experienced the continual provision of structure from God? How have you responded?
- **Wednesday:** What would you need to do to improve the structure that you give to your children? Will you do one thing?
- **Thursday:** How have you experienced the continual provision of nurture from God? How have you responded?
- **Friday:** What would you need to do to improve the nurture that you give to your children? Will you do one thing?
- **Saturday:** Read Romans 8 and reflect on God’s parenting of you.

“Are you irrationally committed to your kids—crazy about them?”