

**INTRODUCTION**

1. As we begin our Parenting series tonight, I want to direct your attention to the most familiar verse in the Bible: John 3:16.
2. Here Jesus tells us God's purpose in sending Jesus to the world.
3. He says in **John 3:16 (NASB77)** <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.
4. That simple verse highlights the greatest need of every person and is the place where I want to begin in this series of messages on parenting.
5. Every child comes in the world with the same problem—sin.
6. Even before birth, the human heart is already programmed for sin.
7. David said in **Psalms 51:5 (NASB77)** <sup>5</sup>Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.
8. Your children are sinners from the very womb.
9. This is what theologians refer to as “total depravity.”
10. It means children do not come into the world seeking God and righteousness. They do not even come into the world

with a neutral innocence. They come into the world seeking the fulfillment of sinful and selfish desires.<sup>1</sup>

11. Where did this depravity come from? It came from our parents.
12. Who did their parents get it from? Their parents.
13. **Genesis 5:3 (NASB77)**<sup>3</sup> When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of *a son* in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.
14. All of Adam's children bore the stamp of sin. They were infected with evil desires. They were born with sinful tastes and an aversion to the things of God.
15. **Romans 5:12 (NASB77)**<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.
16. Yes, children are a gift from the Lord as Psalm 127:3 says.
17. Yes, it is God who opens and closes the womb according to Genesis 20:18 and Genesis 29:31.
18. But every womb He opens and causes to conceive bears the image of Adam's sin.

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<sup>1</sup>John MacArthur, *Successful Christian Parenting : Raising Your Child With Care, Compassion, and Common Sense* (Bedford, Tex.: Word Pub., 1998). 31.

19. **Galatians 3:22 (NASB77)** <sup>22</sup> But the Scripture has shut up all men under sin.
  
20. **Ecclesiastes 7:20 (NASB77)** <sup>20</sup> Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who *continually* does good and who never sins.
  
21. In both of those passages we are told that everyone is affected by sin.
  
22. **Romans 3:10-12 (NASB77)** <sup>10</sup> as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; <sup>11</sup> THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; <sup>12</sup> ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."
  
23. We inherit both the guilt and the corruption of Adam's sin, and we pass it on to our offspring. This is the doctrine of *original sin*. We are born into a fallen race. We inherit a fallen nature. We are inexorably drawn to the lure of sin. We have an appetite for evil and no natural thirst for God. We ultimately have no power of our own to obey God or resist evil: "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God" (Romans 8:7-8). Sin colors our very nature. We are born with a sinful bent.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>John MacArthur, *Successful Christian Parenting : Raising Your Child With Care, Compassion, and Common Sense* (Bedford, Tex.: Word Pub., 1998). 32.

24. Therefore children left entirely to themselves will pursue a course of sin.
25. **Psalms 58:3 (NASB77)** <sup>3</sup> The wicked are estranged from the womb; These who speak lies go astray from birth.
26. All the potential for every kind of sin is already present in the heart of your children.
27. This drives their hearts, minds, and wills.
28. So that little newborn that you hold in your hands, as adorable as he is, is already a reprobate in the making.
29. And if you have no commitment to raise that child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, he will eventually give full expression to his depravity.
30. So what is his greatest need then?
31. Is it to correct his unacceptable behavior or isolate him from the world? Is it to build up his self-esteem?
32. No. The only remedy for the child's inborn depravity is regeneration.
33. Jesus said to Nicodemus in **John 3:6-7 (NASB77)** <sup>6</sup> "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'
34. "Born of the flesh" with a sinful bent, your children have no power to free themselves from sin's bondage. They lack the Holy Spirit. They have no capacity to please God or to

obey Him from the heart. Having been born of flesh, they are carnal. And “the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God” (Romans 8:7–8).<sup>3</sup>

35. Your top-priority job as a parent, then, is to be an evangelist in your home. You need to teach your children the law of God; teach them the gospel of divine grace; show them their need for a Savior; and point them to Jesus Christ as the only One who can save them. If they grow up without a keen awareness of their need for salvation, you as a parent will have failed in your primary task as their spiritual leader.<sup>4</sup>
36. Of course, I am in no way indicating that you can save your children.
37. Regeneration is not something you can do for them. It is the work of the Holy Spirit.
38. But your role is to point your children to the Savior.
39. **Romans 10:14 (NASB77)** <sup>14</sup>How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they

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<sup>3</sup>John MacArthur, *Successful Christian Parenting : Raising Your Child With Care, Compassion, and Common Sense* (Bedford, Tex.: Word Pub., 1998). 44.

<sup>4</sup>John MacArthur, *Successful Christian Parenting : Raising Your Child With Care, Compassion, and Common Sense* (Bedford, Tex.: Word Pub., 1998). 44.

believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

40. As believing parents, you are the first and most important preachers God has given them. They will observe your lives up close, to see whether *you* seriously believe what you are teaching them. They will weigh what you teach them about these matters from the earliest time they can understand anything. You have a better opportunity than anyone to help frame what they know about Christ. Every moment of their lives is a teaching opportunity (Deuteronomy 6:6–7), and you should use those opportunities to the best advantage for your kids' sake.<sup>5</sup>
41. So, tonight I want us to look at 3 ways to lead our children to Christ.
42. First, *take your time and be thorough*.

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<sup>5</sup>John MacArthur, *Successful Christian Parenting : Raising Your Child With Care, Compassion, and Common Sense* (Bedford, Tex.: Word Pub., 1998). 45.

**I. Take Your Time and Be Thorough**

Think of leading your children to Christ as a long-term, full-time assignment—the most important duty God has give you as a parent.

You need to be thorough. You have the time to be thorough and clear about the gospel. You have the time to explain and illustrate it and to listen to their feedback. You have the time to correct any misunderstandings and to clarify and review the difficult parts of the gospel.

As you exercise patience in this process of teaching your child the gospel, don't assume that their first positive response to the gospel is full-fledged saving faith.

Real faith involves understanding and affirming some important concepts that may be out of reach for them.

Real saving faith involves understanding the concepts of the gospel like good and evil, sin and punishment, repentance and faith, God's holiness and His wrath against sin, Christ as God incarnate, the atonement, the resurrection and the lordship of Christ.

Until your child demonstrates some degree of real understanding and some measure of spiritual fruit, you should not be quick to regard their salvation as a settled matter.

So, you need to be faithful, patient, persistent, and thorough.

J.C. Ryal says, "Love should be the golden thread that runs through all your actions in dealing with the child. Kindness, gentleness, tolerance, patience, sympathy, a willingness to enter into childish troubles, a readiness to take part in childish joys—these are the cords by which a child may be led most easily—these are the clues you must follow if you would find the way to his heart."<sup>6</sup>

**Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NASB77)** <sup>6</sup>"And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; <sup>7</sup>and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

Not only do you need to be thorough but you also need to:

## **II. Teach Them the Whole Counsel of God**

The best way to do this is to systematically read the Bible with your children.

When my children were young, I read my Bible out loud to them.

When they were old enough to follow as I read, I would lay on the floor and read the Bible using *The Beginner's Bible*.

As they got much older, I bought them their own Bible.

We still do it today, though my main emphasis is on them reading the Scriptures on their own.

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<sup>6</sup> J.C. Ryal, The Duties of Parents. Sermon.  
<http://www.biblebb.com/files/ryle/PARENTSJC.HTM>.

As you read the Bible talk about the implications it has on their lives.

J.C. Ryal said, "Do not care so much for your children being mighty in the catechism, as for them being mighty in the Scriptures. This is the training, believe me, that God will honor. The Psalmist says to God, "You have exalted above all things Your name and Your word." [Psalm 138:2] and I think that He gives a special blessing to everyone who tries to magnify His Word and His Name among children.

See that your children read the Bible reverently. Train them to look upon it, not as the word of men, but as it truly is, the Word of God, written by the Holy Spirit Himself—all true, all profitable, and able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

See that they read it regularly. Train them to regard it as their soul's daily food—as something essential to their soul's daily health. I well know that you cannot make this anything more than a form; but there is no telling the amount of sin which a mere form may indirectly restrain.

See that they read it all. You need not shrink from bringing any doctrine before them. You need not assume that the leading doctrines of Christianity are things which children cannot understand. Children understand far more of the Bible than we are apt to suppose.

Tell them of sin, its guilt, its consequences, its power, its vileness: you will find they can comprehend this.

Tell them of the Lord Jesus Christ, and His work for our salvation—the atonement, the cross, the blood, the sacrifice, the intercession: you will discover that it is not beyond them to understand.

Tell them of the work of the Holy Spirit in man's heart, how He changes, and renews, and sanctifies, and purifies: you will soon see they can follow your teaching to some degree. In short, I believe that we have no idea how much a little child can take in of the length and breadth of the glorious gospel. They understand far more of these things than we suppose.<sup>7</sup>

Samuel Worcester, in his sermon, *Parental Duties Illustrated*, said, “Children should be taught early the important truths of God’s Word. They should early be taught that there is a God; that He is a being of infinite power and wisdom, knowledge and goodness, justice, mercy, and truth, one God in three persons; that He is to be loved with all the heart, and obeyed in all things with the most dutiful respect; that His law is holy, just, and good; that all mankind are by nature sinners, and are exposed to everlasting destruction; that God has freely given His own Son to die for sinners, and to bring in everlasting righteousness for their justification; that everyone ought immediately to repent and embrace the Savior; that all the unconverted reject the mercy of God, and will continue to reject it to their eternal ruin; and that all who are thus renewed and made alive to God will be pardoned and

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<sup>7</sup> J.C. Ryal, The Duties of Parents. Sermon.  
<http://www.biblebb.com/files/ryle/PARENTSJC.HTM>.

sanctified, and finally received to honor, glory, and immortality.

These and other gospel truths connected with these should be taught to our children with diligence and faithfulness. They are truths which concern their eternal salvation. Nor are we to say that children cannot understand them; for it has been found by pleasing experience that, if proper means are used, children will very early get so much knowledge of divine truth as to be of the greatest benefit to them in all their future lives.<sup>8</sup>

This is what Lou Priolo refers to as teaching in the milieu. He says, “God wants you to teach and apply the Scriptures to your children in all kinds of places and in all types of circumstances, whenever and wherever life takes you. You are to teach in the milieu of life, addressing from the Scriptures the actual situations your children are facing morning, noon, and night. In other words, you are to discuss with your children the relevancy of Scripture not only to all of life’s situations, but while you and they are actually in the midst of those situations. Milieu (lit. middle) is a French word that means environment or setting or surroundings. While they are in the middle of life’s circumstances, or when they are surrounded by them, is the best time to teach and apply the Scriptures to your kids.”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Samuel Worcester, *The Godly Family: Essays on the Duties of Parents and Children*, (Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1993). 81-2.

<sup>9</sup> Lou Priolo, *Teach Them Diligently*, (Woodruff, SC: Timeless Texts, 2000). 16.

God wants you to repeat His Words over and over. Wherever you are with your children, they should hear about the constant interaction you are having with God and His Word. This is how God's word will make an impression on your children.<sup>10</sup>

When Paul came to Ephesus, he told the Ephesians elders that while he was with them for three years he did not "shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God" (Acts 20:27).

That is my purpose as your pastor. I want you to see that Jesus Christ and redemption is the theme of the Bible and how the gospel should affect your lives on a daily basis.

Do this with your kids. Talk about it constantly and live it in front of them. Demonstrate it in all aspects of your decision making and living.

That leads us to the third way to lead your children to Christ:

### **III. Highlight the Doctrines Most Crucial to the Gospel**

Along with a commitment to be thorough, you will need to take great care to highlight certain truths that are particularly crucial to a correct understanding of the gospel.

#### **A. Teach Them About the Holiness of God**

1. God is utterly holy, and His Law therefore demands perfect holiness

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<sup>10</sup> John A. Younts, *Everyday Talk*, (Wapwallopen, PA: Shepherd Press, 2004). 14.

- a) **Isaiah 6:3 (NASB77)** <sup>3</sup> And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."
- b) **Leviticus 11:44-45 (NASB77)** <sup>44</sup> 'For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy; for I am holy. And you shall not make yourselves unclean with any of the swarming things that swarm on the earth. <sup>45</sup> 'For I am the LORD, who brought you up from the land of Egypt, to be your God; thus you shall be holy for I am holy.'
- c) **Joshua 24:19 (NASB77)** <sup>19</sup> Then Joshua said to the people, "You will not be able to serve the LORD, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgression or your sins.
- d) **1 Samuel 2:2 (NASB77)** <sup>2</sup> "There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides Thee, Nor is there any rock like our God.
- e) **1 Samuel 6:20 (NASB77)** <sup>20</sup> And the men of Beth-shemesh said, "Who is able to stand before the LORD, this holy God? And to whom shall He go up from us?"
- f) **Psalms 11:4-7 (NASB77)** <sup>4</sup> The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD 's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the

sons of men. <sup>5</sup> The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, And the one who loves violence His soul hates. <sup>6</sup> Upon the wicked He will rain snares; Fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup. <sup>7</sup> For the LORD is righteous; He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face.

- g) **1 Peter 1:16 (NASB77)** <sup>16</sup> because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."
- h) **Hebrews 12:14 (NASB77)** <sup>14</sup> Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

2. Because He is holy, God hates sin

- a) **Exodus 20:5 (NASB77)** <sup>5</sup> "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me.
- b) **Psalms 5:4 (NASB77)** <sup>4</sup> For Thou art not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with Thee.
- c) **Psalms 7:11 (NASB77)** <sup>11</sup> God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day.

3. Because He is holy sinners cannot stand before Him

- a) **Psalms 1:5 (NASB77)** <sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
- b) **Psalms 5:5 (NASB77)** <sup>5</sup> The boastful shall not stand before Thine eyes; Thou dost hate all who do iniquity.
- c) **Psalms 24:3-4 (NASB77)** <sup>3</sup> Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place? <sup>4</sup> He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood, And has not sworn deceitfully.

B. Show Them Their Sin

Be sure to teach your children from the youngest age that misbehavior is not merely an offense against mom and dad; it's also a sin against a holy God, who demands that children obey their parents.

1. Educate your child's conscience

This will help them view their own misbehavior as a sin for which they will eventually answer to God—not merely misconduct against their parents.

2. Teach with love and genuine compassion

Don't browbeat them. Helping them to understand their own sin does not mean you constantly criticize them and run them down. It doesn't mean you refuse to commend them when they do well.

Teaching them that they are sinners does not mean you belittle them or torment them with constant verbal battering about their failures.

Instruct them tenderly and help them view their own fallenness from God's perspective.

Jesus said in **Mark 2:17 (NASB77)** <sup>17</sup> "*it is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.*"

3. Don't be afraid to teach them what God's law demands

According to Romans 3:20 the law reveals our sin and shows the real nature of sin for what it is (7:13). Galatians 3:24 says that it is a tutor to lead us to Christ.

This is the chief means God uses to make sinners see their own helplessness.

Paul said in **Romans 7:7 (NASB77)** <sup>7</sup> "What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, **"YOU SHALL NOT COVET."**

He said in **Galatians 3:19 (NASB77)** <sup>19</sup> Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions.

- a) Sin is a violation of God's law

1 John 3:4 (KJV), Whosoever committed sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

**1 John 5:17 (NASB77)** <sup>17</sup> All unrighteousness is sin.

- b) Sin is what makes true peace impossible for unbelievers

**Isaiah 57:20-21 (NASB77)** <sup>20</sup> But the wicked are like the tossing sea, For it cannot be quiet, And its waters toss up refuse and mud. <sup>21</sup> "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

- c) Sin makes the sinner worthy of death

**Ezekiel 18:4 (NASB77)** <sup>4</sup> The soul who sins will die.

**Romans 6:23 (NASB77)** <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death.

- d) Sinners can do nothing to earn salvation

**Isaiah 64:6 (NASB77)** <sup>6</sup> For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And

all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities,  
like the wind, take us away.

**Romans 3:20 (NASB77)** <sup>20</sup> "By the works of  
the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight.

- e) Sinners cannot change their own sin nature

**Jeremiah 2:22 (NASB77)** <sup>22</sup> "Although you  
wash yourself with lye And use much soap,  
The stain of your iniquity is before Me,"  
declares the Lord GOD.

**Jeremiah 13:23 (NASB77)** <sup>23</sup> "Can the  
Ethiopian change his skin Or the leopard his  
spots? *Then* you also can do good Who are  
accustomed to doing evil.

- f) Sinners are therefore in a helpless state

**Revelation 21:8 (NASB77)** <sup>8</sup> "But for the  
cowardly and unbelieving and abominable  
and murderers and immoral persons and  
sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part  
*will be* in the lake that burns with fire and  
brimstone, which is the second death."

C. Instruct Them About Christ and What He Has Done

1. Jesus is eternally God (John 1:1)
2. Jesus is Lord of all – **Revelation 17:14 (NASB77)**  
<sup>14</sup> "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the  
Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of

lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him *are* the called and chosen and faithful."

3. Jesus became man – **Philippians 2:6-7 (NASB77)**  
<sup>6</sup>who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,  
<sup>7</sup>but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.
4. Jesus is utterly pure and sinless – **Hebrews 4:15 (NASB77)** <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.
5. Jesus became a sacrifice for our sin – **2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB77)** <sup>21</sup>He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
6. Jesus shed His own blood as an atonement for sin – **Ephesians 1:7 (NASB77)** <sup>7</sup>In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.
7. Jesus died on the cross to provide a way of salvation for sinners – **1 Peter 2:24 (NASB77)**  
<sup>24</sup>He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

8. Jesus arose triumphantly from the dead – **1 Corinthians 15:1-3 (NASB77)** <sup>1</sup> Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.
  
  9. Jesus' righteousness is imputed to those who trust in Him - **Philippians 3:8-9 (NASB77)** <sup>8</sup> More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, <sup>9</sup> and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith.
  
  10. Jesus freely justifies all who trust in Him – **John 5:24 (NASB77)** <sup>24</sup> "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.
- D. Tell Them What God Demands of Sinners
1. Repent – **Acts 17:30-31 (NASB77)** <sup>30</sup> "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should

repent, <sup>31</sup> because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

2. Turn your heart from all that dishonors God – **Ezekiel 18:30 (NASB77)** <sup>30</sup> "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, each according to his conduct," declares the Lord GOD. "Repent and turn away from all your transgressions, so that iniquity may not become a stumbling block to you.
  3. Follow Jesus – **Luke 9:23 (NASB77)** <sup>23</sup> And He was saying to *them* all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.
  4. Trust Him as Lord and Savior – **Romans 10:9-10 (NASB77)** <sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; <sup>10</sup> for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.
- E. Advise Them to Count the Cost Thoughtfully

John MacArthur gives this advice: Don't downplay the hard demands of Christ. Don't portray the Christian life as a life of ease, free from difficulties and dilemmas. Keep reminding your kids that the true price of following Christ always involves sacrifice, and the prelude to glory is suffering. It's true that Christ offers

the water of life freely to all who will take it (Revelation 22:17). But those who do are making unconditional commitment to follow Him that may literally cost them their very lives.

Here is why all the central truths of the gospel focus on the cross: It reveals how heinous our sin is. It shows the intensity of God's wrath against sin. It reveals the great love of God in paying such a high price for redemption. But it also serves as a fitting metaphor for the cost of following Christ. Jesus himself spoke repeatedly of the cross in those terms.

A.W. Tozer wrote, The cross . . . always has its way. It wins by defeating its opponent and imposing its will upon him. It always dominates. It never compromises, never dickers nor confers, never surrenders a point for the sake of peace. It cares not for peace; it cares only to end its opposition as fast as possible.

With perfect knowledge of all this, Christ said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." So the cross not only brings Christ's life to an end, it ends also the first life, the old life, of every one of His true followers. It destroys the old pattern, the Adam pattern, in the believer's life, and brings it to an end. Then the God who raised Christ from the dead raises the believer and a new life begins.

This, and nothing less, is true Christianity. . . .

We must do something about the cross, and one of two things only we can do—flee it or die upon it.<sup>11</sup>

Jesus repeatedly stated that the cost of following Him involves a willingness to sacrifice all.<sup>12</sup>

F. Urge Them to Trust Christ

**2 Corinthians 5:11 (NASB77)** <sup>11</sup> Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men.

**Isaiah 55:6-7 (NASB77)** <sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. <sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

**CONCLUSION**

1. Do you see this as your child's greatest need?
2. Your child doesn't need to be isolated from society or to have a good self-esteem.

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<sup>11</sup> A. W. Tozer, *The Root of the Righteous* (Harrisburg, PA: Christian Publications, 1955), 61–63.

<sup>12</sup> John MacArthur, *Successful Christian Parenting : Raising Your Child With Care, Compassion, and Common Sense* (Bedford, Tex.: Word Pub., 1998). 63.

3. They need to be saved!
4. And it is up to you as a parent to point them to Jesus!
5. To do that you need to take your time and be thorough; teach them the whole counsel of God, and highlight the doctrines most crucial to the gospel.
6. If you're here tonight and have not embraced the gospel, I want to urge you to repent and turn to Jesus Christ who is eternally God, who became man, who became a sacrifice for our sins by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead three days later and imputes His righteousness to those who believe.
7. I want to invite you to come to Him now as we pray.
8. Let's pray.