

“Guilt-Less Parenting”
May 15, 2016
Lynn Haven United Methodist Church

Introduction

None of us is perfect, so we *feel* guilty because we *are* guilty of wrongdoing. Nowhere is this more evident than in our family relationships as we oftentimes say things we wish we hadn't said and do things we wish we hadn't done. It is impossible to be a part of a “guilt-free” family because our speech and behavior toward one another is not always good and right. However, by following some godly principles we can have a “guilt-less” family.

God has given us a marvelous example to follow in raising children: Adam and Eve. He served, not only as the God who created them, but as their Parent who raised them. We can learn many lessons from God's example.

Digging Deeper

1. Read Genesis 2:8-10a. How did God provide for Adam and Eve's emotional, spiritual and physical needs?
2. Discuss ways you provide for your children's emotional and spiritual needs. If you do not have children, discuss ways these needs were met in your life.
3. “Guilt-less” parenting sets boundaries. Read Genesis 2:13-17. What boundaries did God set for Adam and Eve? Why?
4. Why is it easy to feel guilty when we set boundaries in our relationships? How do boundaries help people rather than harm them?
5. “Guilt-less” parenting involves a proper understanding of results. Having perfect kids in a perfect home with perfect parents does not guarantee a perfect result because of “free will” that allows children to choose their own way. What is our job as parents? What is the right result we should be looking for?
6. Think about how a judge administers discipline: they seek to remain objective and fair; they make sure the punishment fits the crime; they ensure the consequences are enforceable; and they operate within established parameters. Using this comparison as a guide, how should parents administer discipline?

Conclusion

Take a look at the proper things we're to do as parents. How does your performance stack up to God's standard? Are you guilty of any wrongdoing? If so, repent. First of all, turn from your sin and turn to God, asking for His forgiveness. Then, determine to change your behavior and do things God's way from this point on. If you have children, give God thanks for them because they are “a gift from the Lord.” (Psalm 127:3)