

## The Gospel and the Overzealous Parent: Resting in God's Perfect Parenthood

### INTRODUCTION

1. Where we've been (see previous lessons)
2. The temptation of tiger parenting
3. The spiritual tiger parent
4. The question:

*Is being a Christian parent a tremendously important, comprehensive, often-difficult job that requires great resolve and discipline and self-sacrifice, or are we putting too much pressure on ourselves?*

5. The answer:

"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose" (Phil. 2:12–13).

"For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift— 9 not from works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do." (Eph. 2:8–10).

"Unless the LORD builds a house, its builders labor over it in vain" (Ps. 127:1).

***As parents and caregivers, we work with all our hearts—but ultimately rest in God's perfect and sovereign parenthood.***

# Parenthood

## Lesson 20

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### TO REST IN GOD’S PARENTHOOD, SEVEN “DON’TS”

**1. Don’t miss it.**

“See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God’s children—and we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it didn’t know him” (1 John 3:1).

**2. Don’t be hypercritical.**

“As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him” (Ps. 103:13).

**3. Don’t be surprised by disobedience.**

“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins 2 in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. 3 We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also” (Eph. 2:1–3).

**4. Don’t assume you’ll know how they’ll turn out.**

# Parenthood

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### 5. Don't fear.

"Children are a precious gift from God, but a great deal of anxiety accompanies them. They may be a great joy or a great bitterness to their parents; they may be filled with the Spirit of God or possessed with the Spirit of evil. In all cases, the Word of God gives us the one prescription for the curing of all their ills, 'Bring the boy to me' (Mark 9:19). . . . Ungodly children, when they show us our own powerlessness against the depravity of their hearts, drive us to flee to the strong for strength, and this is a great blessing to us" (Charles Spurgeon).

### 6. Don't pretend you have it all together.

### 7. Don't be only "transcendent."

## CONCLUSION

"Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6–7).

"The LORD your God is among you, a warrior who saves. He will rejoice over you with gladness. He will be quiet in his love. He will delight in you with singing" (Zeph. 3:17).