



### **Notes to print - from Krista and Dr. Barbara**

(We try to make these notes just 1 page, but this topic is simply too important.)

The way we view our children has a profound impact on how we parent - and respond to our children.

Psalm 127:4-5: Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

Psalm 139: For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your words, And my soul knows it very well.

Jeremiah 1:5: Before I created you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born I set you apart.

Matthew 18:10: See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

#### **Lie Number One:**

“Even a child in the womb and coming from the womb is wayward and sinful” (Listen to podcast for reference)

What is the lie? Children are born fatally flawed and - in a sense - out to get us.

In scripture God makes it clear that children are a gift and a blessing.

#### **Lie Number Two:**

“This tendency toward self-will is the essence of “original sin” which has infiltrated the human family. It certainly explains why I place such stress on the proper response to

willful defiance during childhood, for that rebellion can plant the seeds of personal disaster" (Listen to Podcast for reference)

"A child very quickly demonstrates his fallen, depraved nature and reveals himself to be a selfish little beast in manifold ways. As soon as the child begins to express his own self-will (and this occurs early in life) that child needs to receive correction. My wife and I have a general goal of making sure that each of our children has his will broken by the time he reaches the age of one year. To do this, a child must receive correction when he is a small infant."

What is the lie?

It's the parent's job to fix the fatal flaw.

What is the truth?

It's not our job. It's God's job. Only the redemptive work of God can redeem the sin nature of a child. The role of the parent is to demonstrate the grace of God and love the child to Jesus. We are the hands and feet of Jesus. It is our job to love that child as Jesus would.

### **Lie Number Three:**

"A temper tantrum is an absolute rejection of parental authority. Parents should isolate the child (with a promise of consequences) then follow through with chastisement (spanking) after the child settles down."

What is the lie?

Children's so-called bad behavior is a manifestation of their sinful heart and willful disobedience and must be handled with power, control, and coercion.

What is the truth?

Most of children's so-called bad behavior is often the result of unmet or misunderstood needs. Instruction and correction in the context of unconditional love by a parent who models grace changes the hearts of children - not punishment or harsh discipline.

**One of the greatest myths of our culture is that we can have it all. We can have it all but not at the same time.**

How we view and value our children affects how we care for them.

**Infancy:** If I view the infant who wakes up in the night as evidence of his flawed character then I will either ignore his needs or respond harshly. If I view the child through the lens of grace and as a gift, I will respond with loving compassion and soothe the baby back to sleep no matter how inconvenient losing sleep is.

**Toddler:** If I view the "no" of a toddler as an act of willful defiance, I will respond with power and control with the intention of overpowering his will. But if I see the child through the lens of grace and as a gift, I will see his no as a declaration of independence and celebrate his growing autonomy.

This is where understanding child development equips to you be a better parent because you understand the why of behaviors in each stage. I would respond with empathy to his frustration and handle it with gentle redirection rather than harsh discipline or punishment.

**Preschooler:** If I view the preschooler who whines incessantly as a manipulative child, out to get his own way, then I will begin to feel like a victim myself, and may lash out in irritation and anger.

But if I view the child as someone who doesn't quite know how to verbalize his discomfort or distress, then I will respond with compassion and help him to find better ways of expressing his needs and discomfort.

**School age:** If I view the school age child who sulks and balks at doing their homework as a lazy and unmotivated child, then I will respond with disgust and frustration. I may take away privileges, or use coercive strategies such as taking away tv time, friend time, allowance, etc.

But if I see the child's behavior as an indication of a lack of understanding or feelings of incompetence, then I will respond with support and find the help the child needs to be successful.

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Take some time to consider how you view your children and is that view grounded in God's view of children versus a misguided twisting of truth. Or is it guided by your own convenience rather than a true understanding of the needs of children?

**Be encouraged!**

**Renewing our minds to correct belief about children makes us better parents.**

<http://www.drbarbarasorrels.com/podcast4/>