

# Cultivating Connections

MARRIAGE CONFERENCE 2019

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## Parenting Styles: Working Together as a Couple

### Focus Areas

1. Help you identify your primary parenting style.
2. Identify a goal or focus area in parenting.
3. Support from spouse toward Grace and Truth parenting.

### Two Inseparable Concepts

- **Grace:** unmerited favor
  - **Truth:** righteousness
- God's Grace and Truth cannot be separated: a biblical concept of God contains *both without violating the other*.
1. Without Truth there is no need for Grace
    - The Law is our schoolmaster. (Gal. 3:24)
  2. Without Grace there is no hope.
    - Grace bridges the gap. (Eph. 6:4)

### Parenting Styles

Research done by Diana Baumrind in the 1960s identified different parenting styles based on two factors:

**Parental Demandingness:** having clear expectations for a child's behavior.

◦ TRUTH

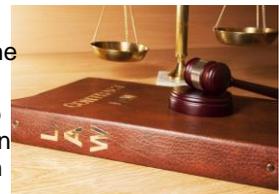
**Parental Responsiveness:** how loving and warm the parent's relationship with the child is.

◦ GRACE

### Judge

(High Demands and Low Responsiveness)

- Strict rules for child.
- Expect obedience with little explanation of the purpose or reason for the rules.
- Less responsiveness to the child or their reaction and punishment is often used when rules are broken.



## Truth and Grace

(High Demandingness and High Responsiveness)

- Establish rules and expectations for children but enforce and establish rules more collaboratively.
- Discipline is consistently applied, but is more restorative than punitive.
- Authoritative parents tend to be more nurturing and forgiving when a child breaks the rules.

## Uninvolved

(Low Demanding and Low Responsiveness)

- Few expectations for child.
- Less responsive to child.
- Provide for the child's basic needs but are largely detached from the child.



## Permissive

(Low Demandingness and High Responsiveness)

- Not many demands for child.
- Often doesn't have high expectations for their child.
- May be seen as a friend of their child.

## Your Parenting Style?

- Identify your parenting style and identify your spouse's parenting style.
  - In general, what is your parenting style?
  - Specific situations, what is your parenting style?
    - Ex. – bedtime, supper, homework, child following through on something, cleanliness, time with their friends, etc.

"High"

Judge

Truth and  
Grace

Truth

Uninvolved

Permissive

"Low"

"Low"

"High"

Grace

## What Do You Want?

Child to be well behaved.  
Child to make good choices.  
Child to avoid pain.

Or

Child to be a disciple of Christ.  
Child to grow in wisdom and discernment.  
Child to be Spirit led.

## Working Together

- Do you and your spouse have similar or different parenting approaches?
  - Strengths and weaknesses of similar approaches. (Blind Spots?)
  - Strengths and weaknesses of different approaches. (Conflict)

## You Need Each Other

- Your strength comes with a natural weakness. Knowing your tendencies are helpful.
- Spouses work together to illuminate strengths and work on weaknesses.
- Avoiding going to extremes to compensate for each other.

## Parenting with Grace and Truth

- Different situations and different children will require different parenting approaches. Consider how grace and truth might look with each of your children.
- In what ways do you want your parenting approach to shift? Stay the same?

## If You Lean Toward Truth Without Grace

- Remember maturing and growing takes time.
  - Children do not mature overnight.
  - Learning through repetition IS the way most children learn.
- Unrealistic expectations will frustrate your child.  
*Ephesians 6:4*
  - Consider:
    - Developmental Stage
    - Maturity
    - Relationship

## If You Lean Toward Grace Without Truth

- Structure, rules, and expectations help your child grow.
- The law helps us see our need for a Savior.
- Grace cannot be absent of truth.
- Consider your emotions and their role in your parenting.

## Balanced Parenting Style

Work toward a balance that allows you to address your child and a particular situation appropriately.

- To do so you must know:
  - Your tendencies
  - Your child
  - The situation
- Be open to direction:
  - Scriptures, Spirit, Spouse, Counsel

Not too stern

Not too lenient