



Seasons

of Christian Parenting

Wisdomfest
2023

“For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain.” (1)

“For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain.” (1)

vain = empty

1. Face your **pain**.

1. Face your **pain**.

“But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi ...” (2a)





“But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict.” (2)

“But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict.” (2)

boldness = lit. “all speech,”

speaking freely, confidently

Frederick Buechner

“Don’t talk; don’t trust; don’t feel.”

Frederick Buechner

“His face I’ve long since lost, but his back I can still behold.”

Frederick Buechner

“What do we do with these mixed lives we are given, these hands we are so unequally dealt.... How do we get the most out of what we are so variously and richly and hair-raisingly given?”

Frederick Buechner

“We all of us have good reason to be afraid....
So we dig the hole in the ground, in ourselves,
in our busyness or wherever else we dig it and
hide the terrible things in it, which is another
way of saying that we hide ourselves from the
terrible things....

“I think that what the parable means is that the buried pain in particular and all the other things we tend to bury along with pain, including joy, which tends to get buried too when we start burying things,

“that the buried life is itself darkness and wailing and gnashing of teeth, and the one who casts us into it is no one other than ourselves.”

“The trouble with steeling yourself against the harshness of reality is that the same steel that secures your life against being destroyed, secures your life also against being opened up and transformed by the holy power that life itself comes from.”

Frederick Buechner

What does this have to do with parenting teens?

- What if God has entrusted you with pain in order to transform and use you?

- What if God has entrusted you with pain in order to transform and use you?

“If we do not transform our pain, we will most assuredly transmit it.”

Rohr

- What if as you **face your pain**, you are modeling and training your teens to **redeem suffering**?

- What if as you **face your pain**, you are modeling and training your teens to **redeem suffering**?

“boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict.” (2)

“The more wounded a parent is, the greater the probability that he’ll imagine the real sickness in the family to reside in someone else – the spouse or the children.”

Kevin Huggins

blame

blame

shame



blame

shame



blame **own** shame



~~blame~~ **Bold in
our God** ~~shame~~



1. Face your pain.

1. Face your pain.

2. Be **genuine**.



We minister (parent) ...

We minister (parent) ...

- not to **deceive**

We minister (parent) ...

- not to **deceive**

“our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive” (3)

We minister (parent) ...

- not to deceive
- not to **please people**

We minister (parent) ...

- not to deceive
- not to **please people**

“So we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.” (4)

We minister (parent) ...

- not to deceive
- not to please people
- not to **take advantage of**

We minister (parent) ...

- not to deceive
- not to please people
- not to **take advantage of**

“For we never came with words of flattery” (5)

We minister (parent) ...

- not to deceive
- not to please people
- not to take advantage of
- not to **get something**

We minister (parent) ...

- not to deceive
- not to please people
- not to take advantage of
- not to **get something**

“Nor with a pretext for greed” (5)

We minister (parent) ...

- not to deceive
- not to please people
- not to take advantage of
- not to get something
- not to **pull rank**

“Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ.” (6)

1. Face your pain.

2. Be genuine.

1. Face your pain.
2. Be genuine.
3. Give **yourself**. **Wisely**.

“But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.” (7-8)

“though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ” (6b)

“And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.”

1 Thessalonians 1:6-7

Spring (0-5) - Loving Discipline

Summer (6-12) - Intentional Training

Fall (13-18) - Inspirational Coaching



“What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?”

1 Corinthians 4:21

Three ways teens respond:

Three ways teens respond:

- a wise response

Three ways teens respond:

- a wise response
- a **weak** response

Three ways teens respond:

- a wise response
- a weak response
- a **willful** response

1. Face your pain.
2. Be genuine.
3. Give yourself. Wisely.
4. Train **24/7**.

“For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

“You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers.

“For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.”

1 Thessalonians 2:9-12

“Culture eats strategy for breakfast.”

Peter Drucker



“If you’re married with kids, now is the time to be home a lot. It’s not the time to relentlessly do ‘whatever it takes’ to build your career. Now is the time to concentrate on the people around you, the ones depending on you.

“This is your garden. Keep it. Don’t leave it.

“You get one shot at this, and it’s only for a season. Now is the moment to make financial and lifestyle sacrifices to make time with your family.

“I hear the objections: ‘Yeah, sure, but if I did that, we’d have to rent a place in a trailer park!’

“So rent a place in a trailer park.

“I’d have to sell my awesome truck. Are you saying I should drive an old \$2000 Corolla or something?”

“Yes. That’s exactly what I’m saying. You can drive an awesome truck later. Really. For you, it’s not Awesome Truck Season. It’s Kids Season. Awesome Truck Season can start later....

“Okay, but what about my golf hobby? If I didn’t work so much, we couldn’t afford it.

“Golf later....”

“We couldn’t take any vacations!

“Buy a little inflatable pool. Put it outside your trailer, and spray your trailer kids with your trailer hose. It’s like a fancy water park without the lines and the \$14 turkey legs. They’ll love it.

“And they’ll never forget it, Dad. All that time giggling and playing with you.

“But what about my kids’ college fund?”

“Sure, I’m gone a lot and stressed out. But I’m busting my rear end to help them get into a great college.

“That’s a big mistake. They don’t need a college fund. They need you.

“You’re not charged with getting your kids a lucrative career. You’re charged with shaping their character. The security they need right now isn’t financial security. It’s I-know-my-dad-and-he-knows-me security....

“If your kid becomes a doctor but doesn’t truly know you, and she never got to see your real love for your neighbors, well, you missed the point. And you don’t get do-overs.”

Brant Hansen

1. Face your pain.
2. Be genuine.
3. Give yourself. Wisely.
4. Train 24/7.

1. Face your pain.
2. Be genuine.
3. Give yourself. Wisely.
4. Train 24/7.
5. **Point beyond**.

Point beyond yourself ...

Point beyond yourself ...

- to the **Word of God.**

Point beyond yourself ...

- to the **Word of God**.

“And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.”(13)

Point beyond yourself ...

- to the Word of God.
- to the **Church**.

Parenting as Discipleship

1. Face your pain.
2. Be genuine.
3. Give yourself. Wisely.
4. Parent 24/7.
5. Point beyond.