

## SESSION 1 DISTINCTIVE CHRISTIAN PARENTING

1. Welcome
2. Who is here [singles? parents? single parents? grandparents?]
3. Wisdom so far? [who/what has helped you?]

*\*exercise: Share something a child has said/done which was funny/memorable*

4. Aims: (a) Biblical parenting  
(b) These sessions – Distinctive Christian Parenting  
- Bible Priorities and Planning  
- Stages and Special Challenges  
(c) Input, discussion, questions
5. Goals for overall impact of this conference:  
(a) A relationship with Christ is the key to all other relationships  
(b) A relationship with Christ lived out is more effective than a library of books.  
*\*newspaper*  
*\*Colossians 3:18-21*

6. Distinguishing:  
(a) Christian from non Christian  
(b) Christian worldview from non Christian worldview

*\*exercise: read the 2 columns overleaf. Tick where you feel pressure to go with the secular rather than the biblical value.*

7. Biblical foundations in Genesis 1 to 3.  
(a) Made by God for God in the image of God  
(b) A fallen world (parents and children)  
(c) Need Jesus
8. Biblical principles about children:  
(a) gift from God (Psalm 127:3)  
(b) to be taught (Deuteronomy 6:4-6)  
(c) to be trained (Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4)  
(d) to be loved (Matthew 7:7ff)  
(e) to be disciplined (Hebrews 12)  
(f) to be provided for (1 Timothy 3:4-5)  
(g) to honour parents (Ephesians 6:1-3)  
(h) to become independent (Colossians 1:9-10)  
(i) to serve the Lord (Matthew 6:33)  
(j) to care for parents (1 Timothy 5:8)

9. Grace for believers and unbelievers
  - Simon M (Isaiah 28:21 and Isaiah 30:18)  
*\*exercise: Do you understand grace yourself?*  
*Do your children understand grace?*

## BIBLICAL VS SECULAR PARENTING

<p><b>Vision</b> Parenting comes naturally, it just happens. There is no special responsibility, they can live their own lives apart from their children.</p>	<p><b>Vision</b> Parents are intricately involved in the training of their children, teaching, providing, guiding.</p>
<p><b>Core Values</b> Happiness, financial security, safety, self-esteem, success dictate the way children are raised.</p>	<p><b>Core Values</b> Biblical values – eg love, faith, forgiveness, joy dictate child-raising. Christ's life, death, resurrection taught, lived out.</p>
<p><b>Human Nature</b> Children are born innocent. They do better without too much interference.</p>	<p><b>Human Nature</b> Children are born sinful and need to be gossiped, loved and disciplined.</p>
<p><b>Authority</b> No respect for authority by parents, defence of children who are disciplined by, eg, teachers. Children equal in authority to parents.</p>	<p><b>Authority</b> Respect for authority taught as parents obey the Lord. Children taught to honour and obey parents.</p>
<p><b>Rebuke</b> Reasoning, bribes and threats.</p>	<p><b>Rebuke</b> Appropriate discipline so children learn to obey directives of parents.</p>
<p><b>Frustrations</b> Unreasonable or personally driven expectations of children.</p>	<p><b>Satisfaction</b> God-driven expectations as found in the bible.</p>
<p><b>Roles</b> Egalitarian or legalistic view of husband/wife roles.</p>	<p><b>Roles</b> Biblical, clear understanding of husband/wife roles.</p>
<p><b>Conflict</b> Avoid conflict at all costs/conflict handled as "peer" to "peer"</p>	<p><b>Conflict</b> Recognize its inevitability, pray for wisdom, resolve,</p>
<p><b>Feelings</b> Children encouraged to express all feelings eg "I feel angry" . Encourage "self-esteem" at all costs.</p>	<p><b>Feelings</b> Children encouraged to take responsibility for behaviour, taught self-control, others focus.</p>
<p><b>Marriage</b> Marriage is an arbitrary contract which can always be broken when one partner has had enough. Children adapt easily and happily to multiple parents.</p>	<p><b>Marriage</b> Marriage is a lifelong, monogamous commitment between a man and a woman, a temporary picture of an eternal reality.</p>

10. The two goals for our conference and their implications