

Series Introduction: Title “Beauty for Ashes” Isaiah 61:3

The Ugly Brokenness of Man – The Beautiful Restoration of God

1. Shame, Guilt & Regret (3 Best friends of Despair)
2. Anger & Bitterness (Formula for Destruction) this is the message title
3. Anxiety Stress Depression (The life blood of Failure)
4. Addictions (Grasping for Nothing)
5. **Parenting (A Grace Filled Experience)**
6. Marriage (Total Sacrifice)

“Parenting: A Grace Filled Experience”

Proverbs 22: 4, 5, 6 and Psalm 103:1-8

Parenting... the very thought perhaps strikes fear and uncertainty into your heart. Many questions that have few answers...advice that seems to be easily given yet often misses the mark. They don't know MY family....But my children seem so different than anything I've heard from others. Am I capable? Will I succeed? These questions are just too important to hope we might get it right. Thankfully God has given to us His Word as the final authority on a pattern of how your home should look. If you practice this pattern and make it a part of your families “mode of operation” then you will find the questions around parenting are easily answered.

Proverbs 22:4,5,6

4. By humility *and* the fear of the LORD
Are riches and honour and life.
5. Thorns *and* snares *are* in the way of the perverse;
He who guards his soul will be far from them.
6. Train up a child in the way he should go,
And when he is old he will not depart from it.

Psalm 103:1-8

1. Bless the LORD, O my soul; And **all** that is **within me**, *bless* His holy name!
2. Bless the LORD, O my soul, And **forget not all** His benefits:
3. Who **forgives all** your iniquities, Who heals **all** your diseases,
4. Who **redeems** your life from destruction, Who **crowns** you with loving kindness and tender mercies,
5. Who **satisfies** your mouth with good *things*, *So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
6. The LORD executes **righteousness** and **justice** for **all** who are oppressed.
7. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.
8. The LORD *is* **merciful and gracious**, **Slow to anger**, and **abounding in mercy**.

Introduction:

- What does your parenting plan look like?
- Do you just try your best with the latest parenting book? Changing books often?
- Do you expect that your children will just naturally figure out life?

Main Message Outline: Broken homes exist primarily because of broken people... a broken home is not about your marital status or your family dynamics but it is about the function ability of your home. David was a man after God's own heart.... He made mistakes as a husband and a parent but through his life He learned a valuable pattern by which you and I could learn and incorporate in to our own homes.

(1) **Count my blessings** (rather than my frustrations) v. 1, 2

- a. Changes my focus (does your home have blessings)
- b. Children are a blessing to be counted...They come from the Lord.
*Ps 127:3-5"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
The fruit of the womb is a reward.
4Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,
So are the children of one's youth.
5Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them;*
 - David was focused upon the blessings of the Lord not frustrated about life.
- c. My soul is refreshed (when I count my blessings)
 - A complaining spirit is like drinking poison – leads to death. (of marriage, relationships, and joy)
 - forget not **ALL** His benefits v.2... this includes all children regardless of their academic ability physical appearance, social skills
 - **Quote "Never let a problem to be solved become more important than a person to be loved." – Joshua Harris**

(2) **Forgive Easily** v.3 (and completely)

- a. forgiveness is needed more than criticism
- b. forgiveness is like medicine for the soul v.3 (the sooner we forgive the quicker the healing will take place)
- c. Matthew 6: ¹⁴“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

(3) Sacrifice More Than Others v.4 (be willing to pay the higher price)

- a. God redeemed you – he paid the higher price
- b. It saves from destruction (what length would you go to save your loved ones from destruction)
- c. After you sacrifice – don't complain but rather reward them.
- d. Reward them with loving kindness and tender mercies. (loving kindness smoothers the flames of rebellion in the heart) Say I love you often...

(4) Care for their Soul v.5 David here is expressing how God's goodness is like healthy food for a growing changing body. (age appropriate –(1-5) (6-10) (11-up)

- a. Like a doctor cares for a patient care for their soul (with young given them God)
- b. Feed them the "good medicine" of kind words filled with grace
- c. Their strength will be renewed
- d. The more intense I care for others the sweeter the spirit grows.

(5) Provide a place of Safety v.6 (the oppressed need a safe haven...home)

- a. Safety from criticism and cynical thinking
- b. Safety from the danger of the fallen and cruel world
- c. Be willing to give lots of hugs (They lighten the load of a heavy day)

(6) Show them the Big Picture v.7 (God showed Moses the big picture of way the Israelites wandered in the wilderness)

- a. God helped Moses to see what was most important (promised land)
- b. Don't use words like "because I said So" give them a good reason
- c. Don't do good and then grumble if someone doesn't recognise.
- d. They will thank you someday for loving them now (love them intensely)

(7) Reflect Godliness at any Cost v.8 (This pattern will cost you more than them but in the end you will both will be winners).

- a. Mercy pardons sin
- b. Grace bestows favour
- c. He lingers long, with loving pauses, tarrying by the way to give space for repentance and opportunity for accepting his mercy.
- d. Be the example of what God wants them to be