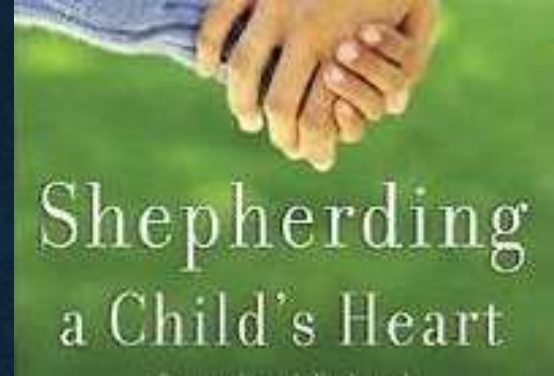
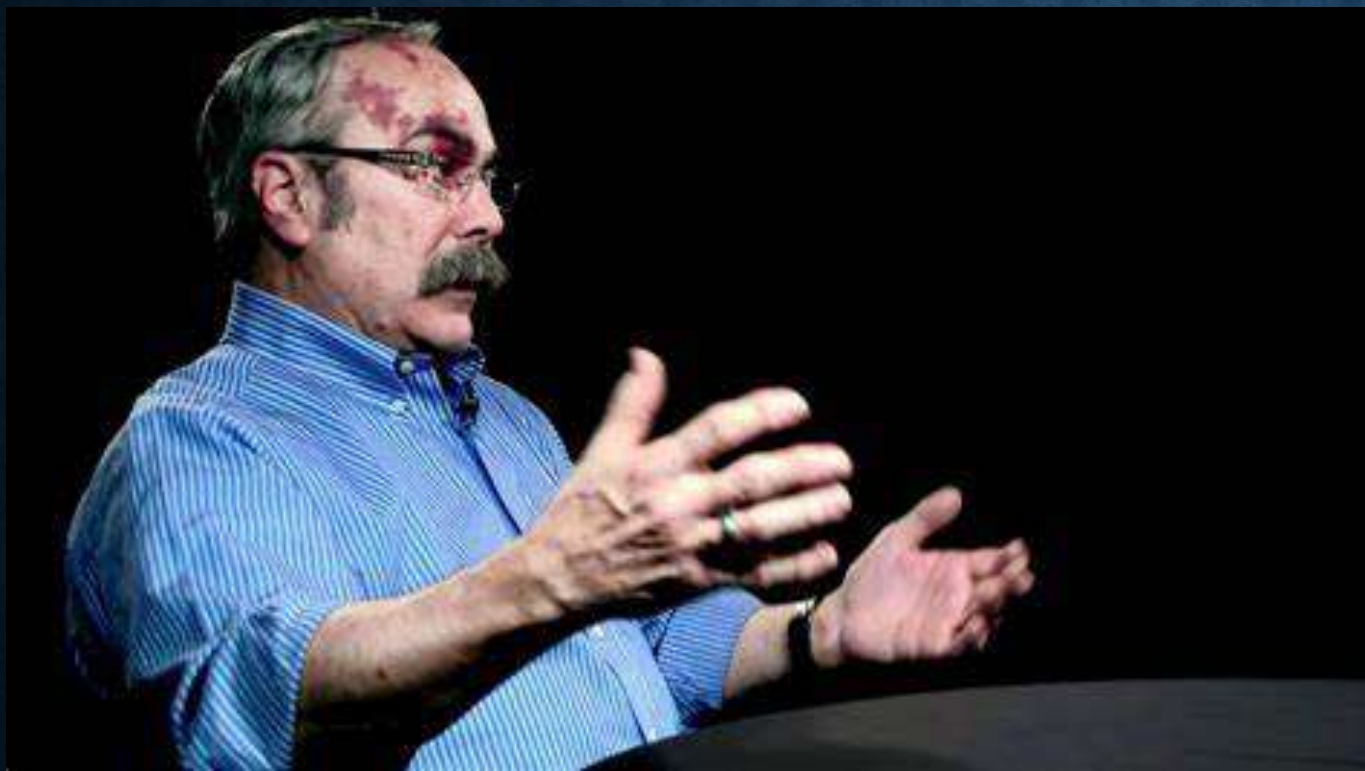


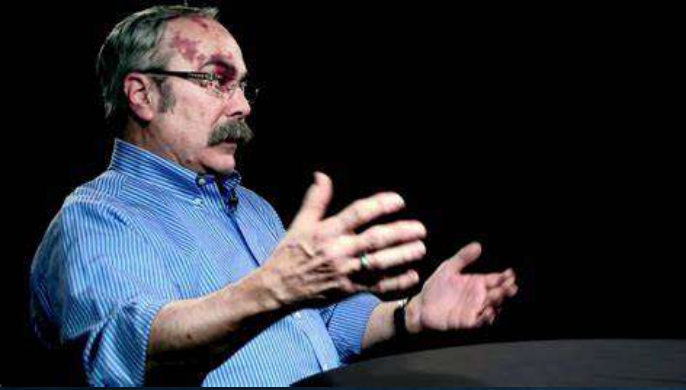
A photograph of hands clasped together, similar to the one in the top left, but with a green background. The text "Shepherding a Child's Heart" is overlaid in white serif font.

Shepherding
a Child's Heart





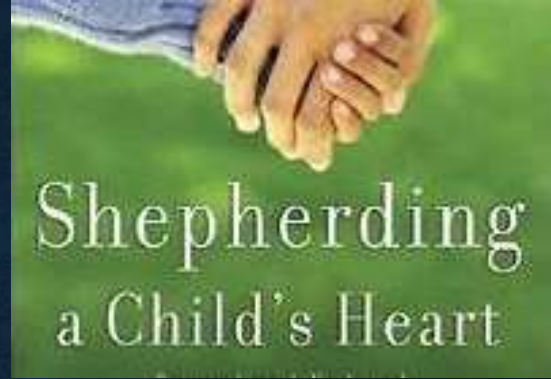
**When we
miss the
heart, we
miss the
gospel**



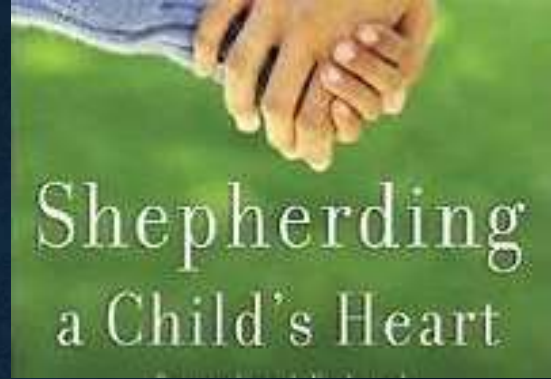
The main idea:

We are tempted to look at and respond to behavior in our children. When we do this, we miss the Gospel.

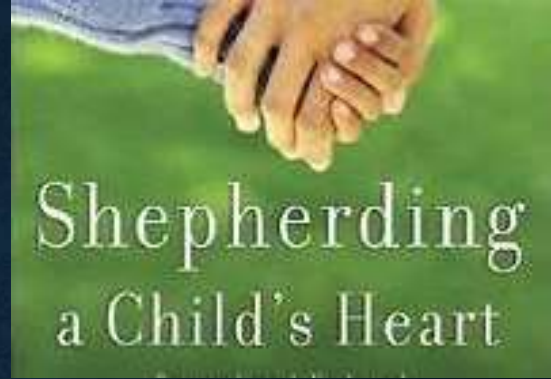
The temptation when things have gone wrong is to correct behavior. We instinctively see behavior as the problem. That's because we see behavior. We hear behavior. Behavior requires a response. Once we have made behavior the focus in correction and discipline, we open ourselves up to all the tricks and tools parents use to manage behavior.



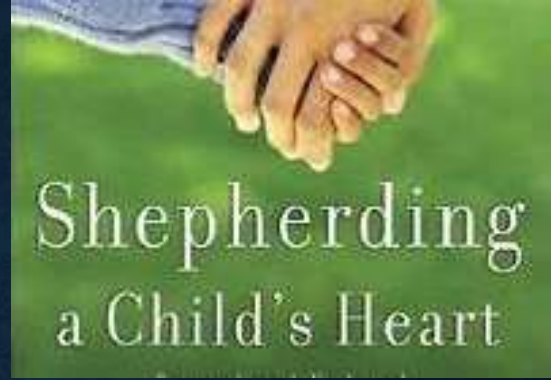
We forget that the heart is the wellspring of behavior. We miss the gospel because behaviorism by-passes the heart. Behaviorism focuses on behavior rather than the desires, fears, idols or passions of the heart. If we remember that behavior mirrors the heart, then the route to lasting change for both our children and ourselves is the grace and power of the gospel.



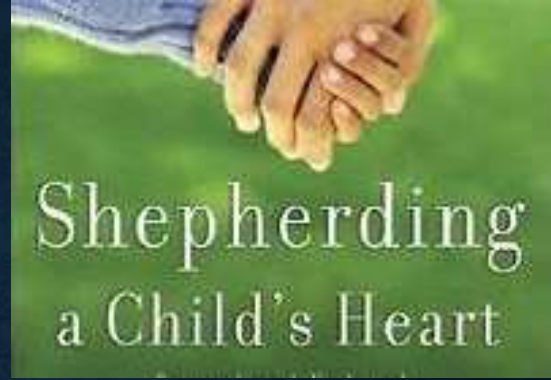
**Ted Tripp's book teaches you
what goals a parent ought to
have and how to pursue those
ends practically,**



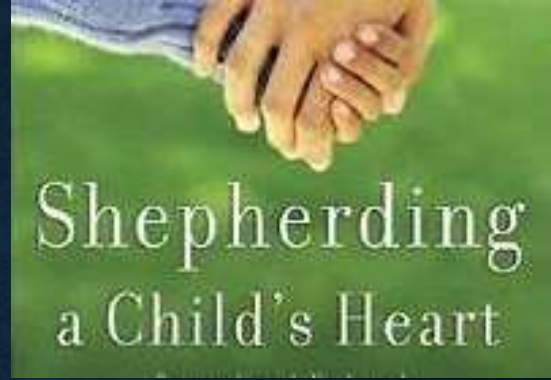
- It is still possible to raise godly children in the 21st century. You need not—indeed, you dare not – cave in.
- By age ten to twelve, scores of children have already left home.
- The only safe guide is the bible.
- God's ways have not proven inadequate: they are simply untried.



**God is concerned with the heart. It is the well-spring of life (Pr. 4:23)
Parents tend to focus on the externals of behavior rather than on the internal overflow of the heart,**



Proverbs 4:23

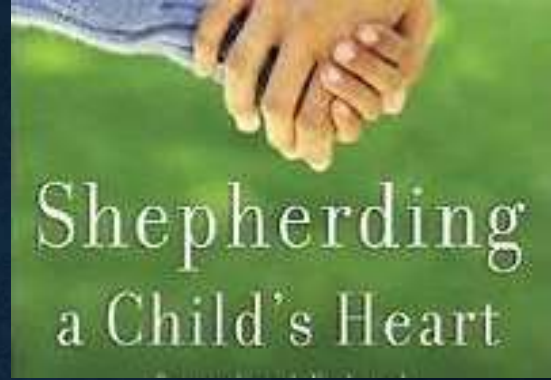


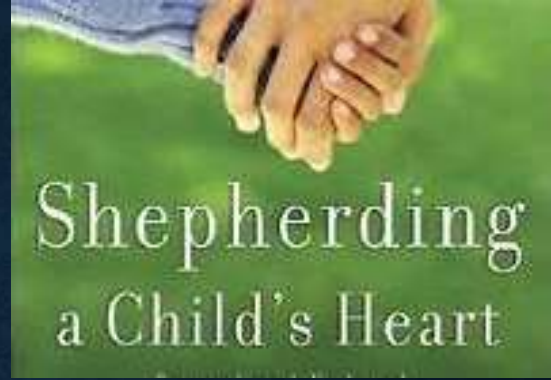
- Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. NIV
- Guard your heart with all diligence, for from it flows the springs of life LSV
- Above everything else, keep watch over your heart, because everything in life issues from it. (mine)

**When we miss the heart, we miss
the subtle idols of the heart.
Romans 1 makes it clear that all
men are worshipers:**



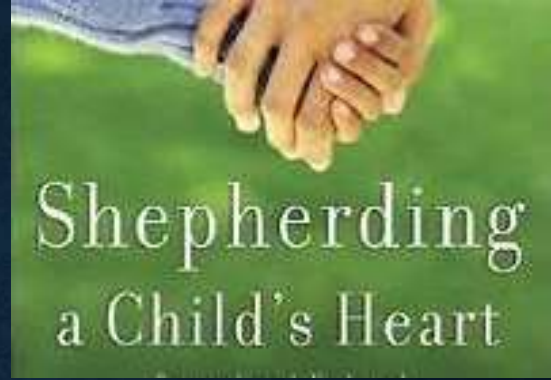
When we miss the heart, we miss the gospel. If the goal of parenting is no more profound than securing appropriate behavior, we will never help our children understand the internal things the heart issues, that push and pull behavior....



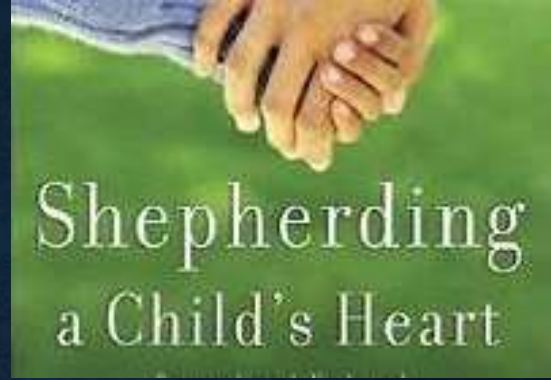


If the problem with children is deeper than inappropriate behavior, if the problem is the overflow of the heart, then the need for grace is established.

A biblical overview of parenting:

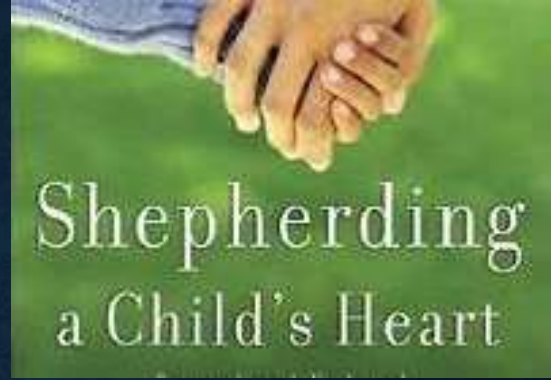


- It involves being a God-given authority, shepherding your children to understand themselves in God's world, and keeping the gospel in clear view so your children can internalize the good news and someday live in mutuality with you as the people of God,

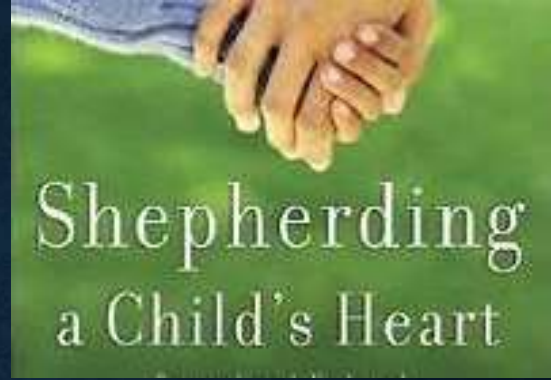


- The purpose of your authority in the lives of your children is not to hold them under your power, but to empower them to be self-controlled people living freely under the authority of God.

The Basic Model: Shepherding,

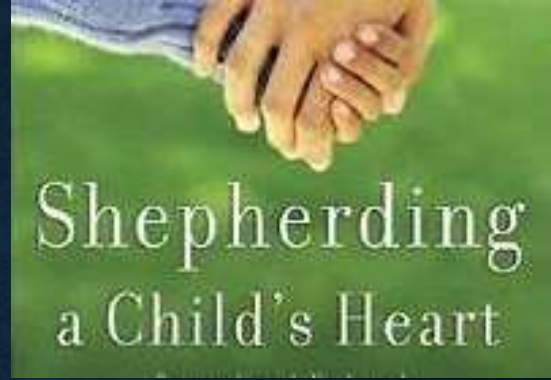


- helping your child not just understand the “what” but the “why” of their actions.
- Pointing them to the gospel. You need to direct, not simply the behavior but the attitudes of their hearts.

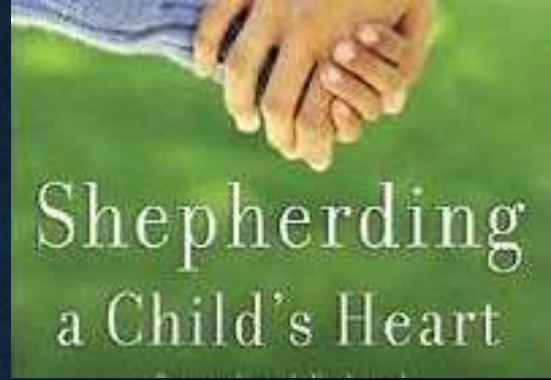


The Gospel is more than helping your children know forgiveness of sins through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. In the gospel there is the power of transformation and power

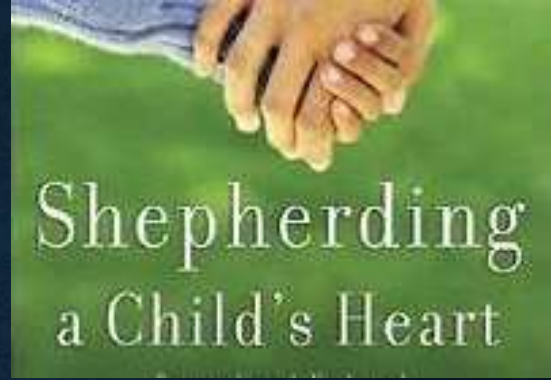
Chapter 1 Getting to the Heart of Behavior.



- Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life. **Proverbs 4:23**
- **The heart determines behavior.**

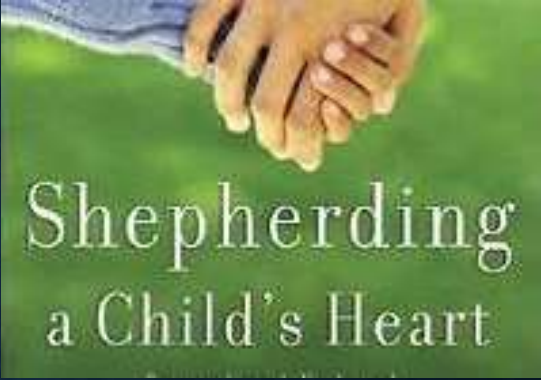


- Your child's needs are far more profound than his aberrant behavior.
- A change in behavior that does not stem from a change in heart is not commendable; it is condemnable.



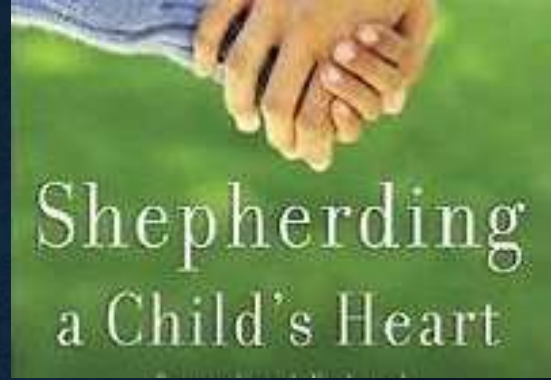
The goal of discipleship is to unmask your child's sin, helping him to understand how it reflects a heart, that has strayed. ...And that leads to the cross of Christ.

Chapter 2 Your Child's Development: Shaping Influences.



Your child is the product of two things:

- 1) His life experiences, 2) His reaction to them.



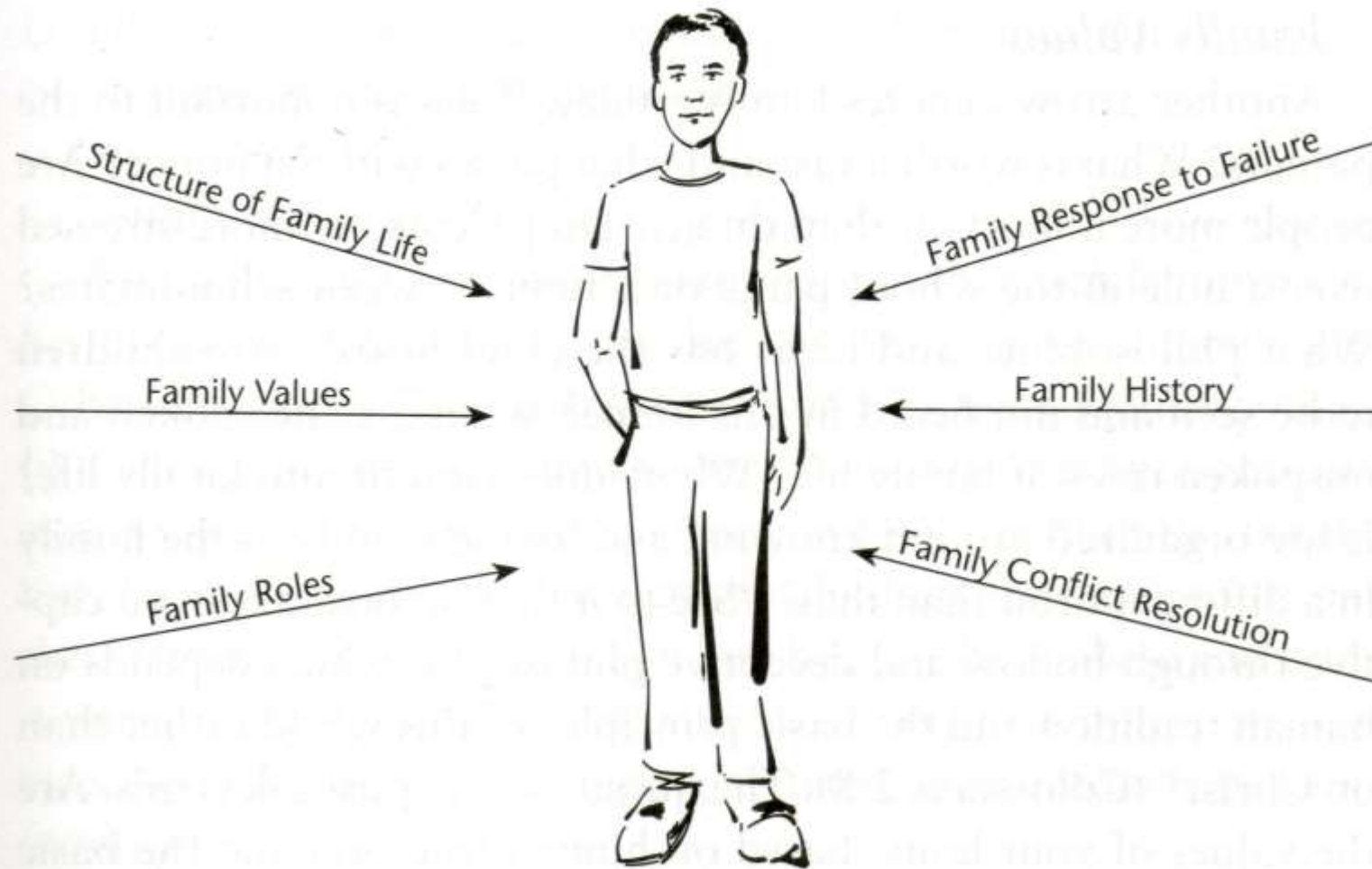
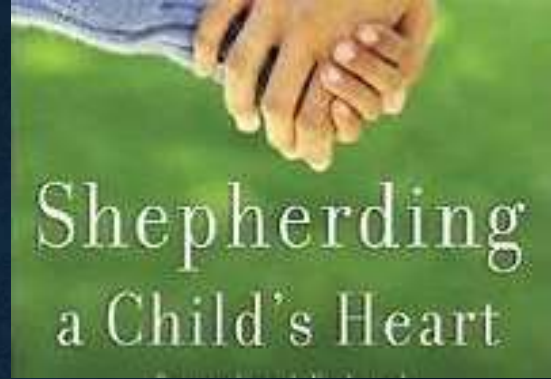


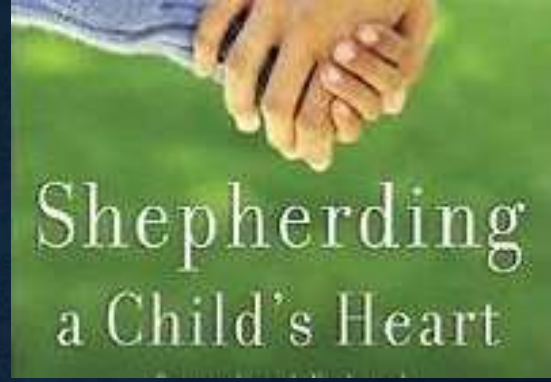
Figure 2 Shaping Influences

Shepherding
a Child's Heart

Two mistakes:

- 1) Seeing shaping influences deterministically
- 2) Denial that such influences really are consequential





Chapter Three: Your Child's Development: A God-ward Orientation

- **Either your child worships God or idols. We are never neutral**

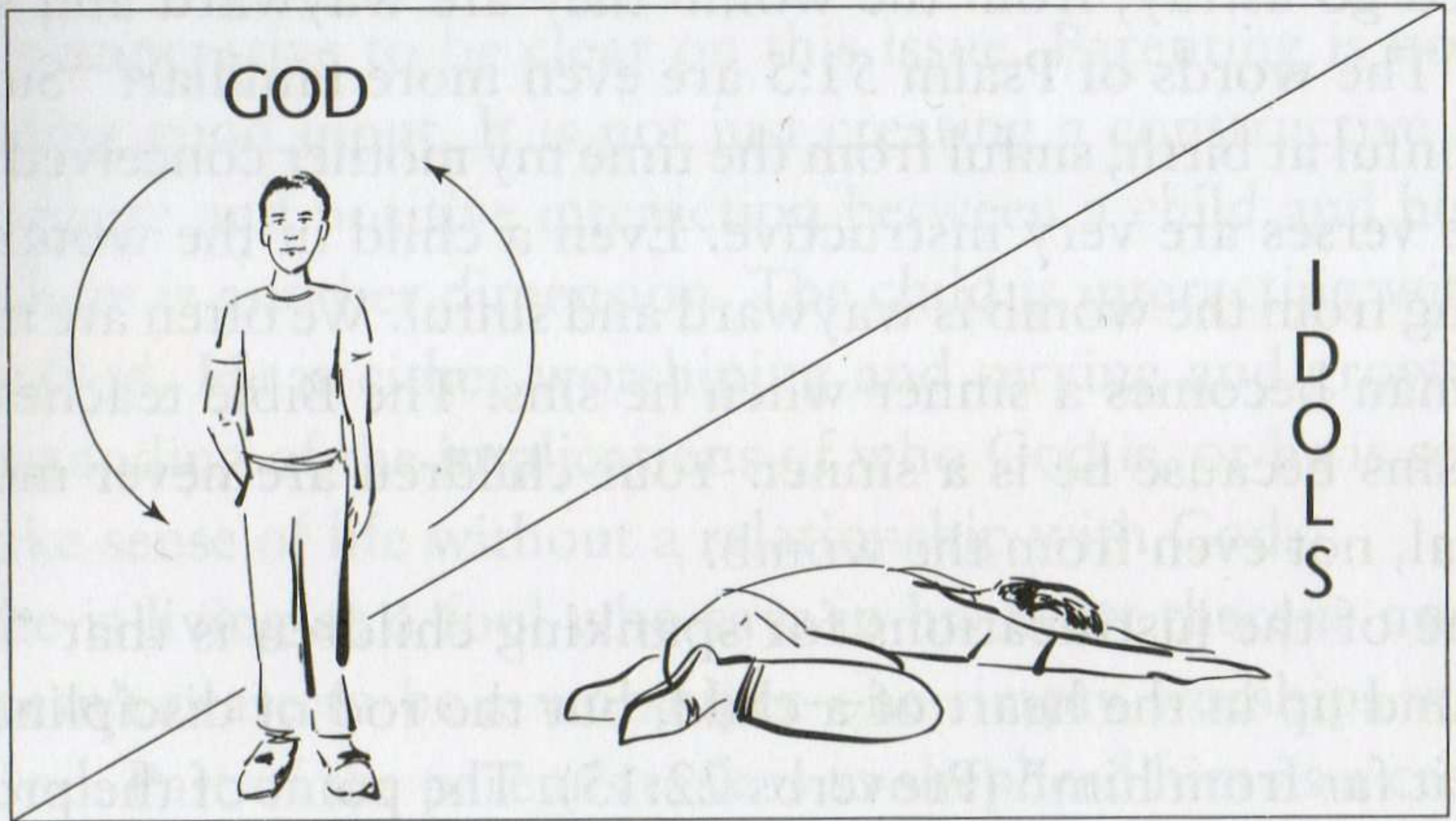
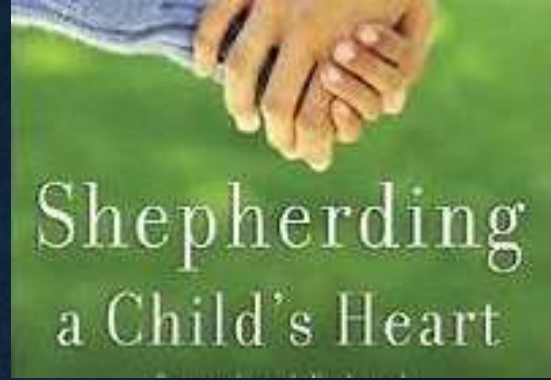


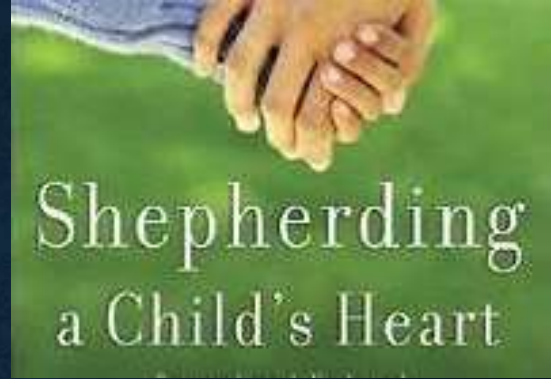
Figure 3 Godward Orientation

Chapter Four: You're in Charge



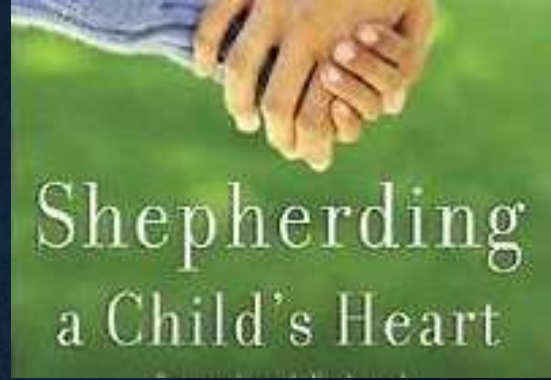
Shepherding
a Child's Heart

God given authority



- As a parent you have authority because God calls you to be an authority in your child's life. You are not exercising dominion over your jurisdiction, but over God's .
- Parental authority does not rest in the fact that we are larger or smarter, or more experience.
- Children must be trained that God calls them to obey always, *(while they are young)*.

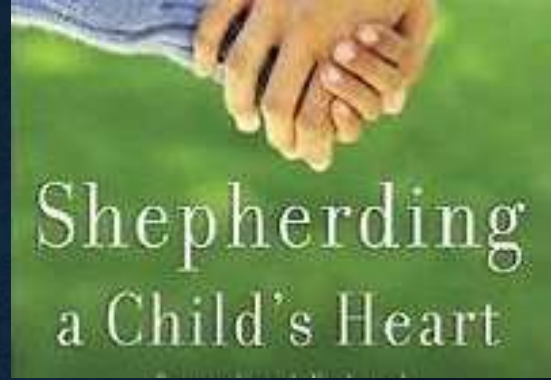
God given authority



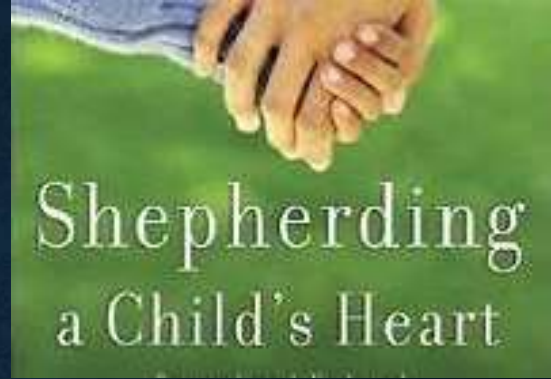
- You have a mandate to act. You have no choice. You must engage your children. You are acting in obedience to God. It is your duty. p. 30

What is discipline?

- It is not anger. Anger has no place in raising children.
- Anger is manipulation
- Discipline is corrective, not punitive.
- Discipline is an expression of love



"My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." Hebrews 12:5-6



Chapter 5: Examining Your Goals,



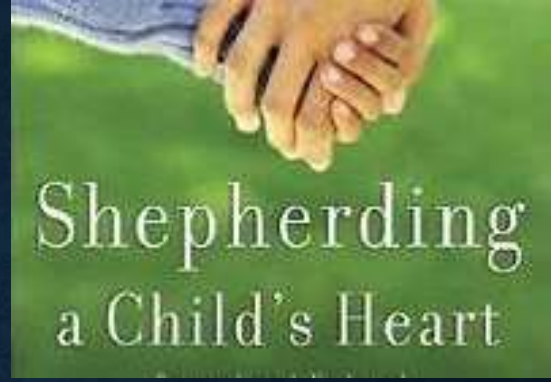
Shepherding
a Child's Heart

Goals which are insufficient

- Children who are successful,
- Children who are uniquely gifted,
- Children who are well adjusted.
- Children who have simply “prayed the prayer” for salvation.
- Children who participate in family worship.
- Children who are well behaved.
- Children who are well educated.

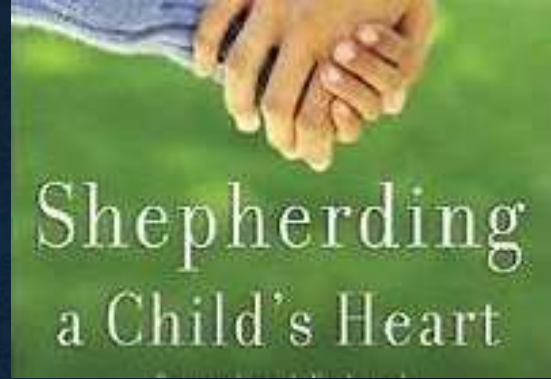


The main goal in raising children, is summed up in the Shorter Catechism.



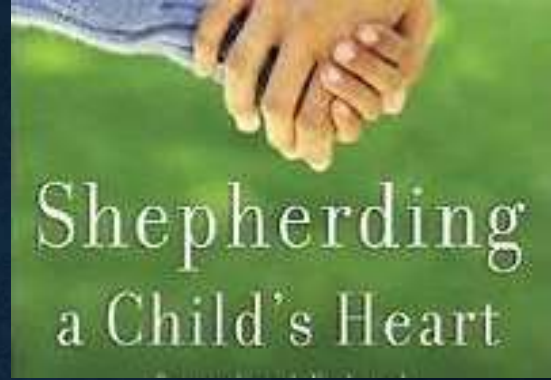
- Q. What is the chief end of man?
- A. Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

Chapter 6: Reworking Your Goals



- Each of the previous goals are short sighted, may lead to pride, the pursuit of idols, false conversions, and a failure to realize that the gospel must be lived out daily, by pursuing the glory of God in all things.

Chapter 7: Discarding Unbiblical Methods



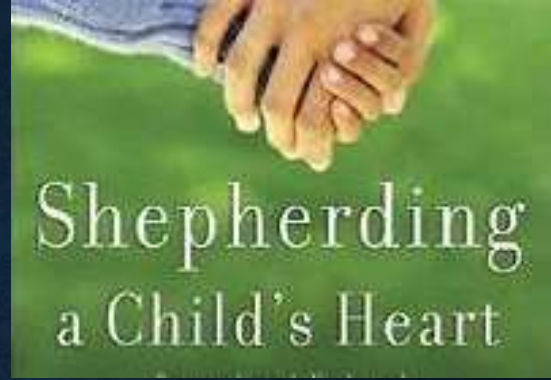
- Simply following the pattern of how you were raised, (usually includes harsh or abusive patterns)
- Pop Psychology (use bribery, contracts and the child's self interest). p. 61
- Behavior Modification (reward good behavior and obedience and punish poor actions. Such actions will feed their lusts, not help them control them.)

Unbiblical Methods continued.

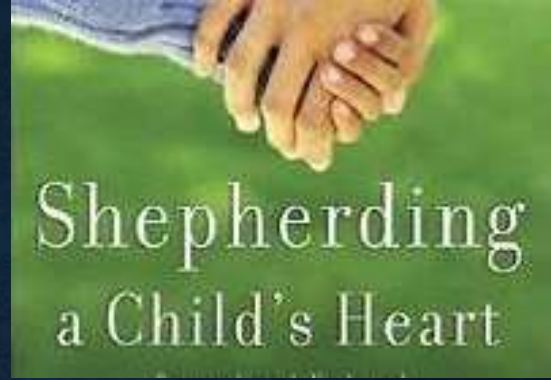


Shepherding
a Child's Heart

- Emotionalism (In addition to being unbiblical, it often turns into emotional abuse)
- Punitive correction: (Discipline must never be applied to bring harm, pain, distress or deprivation to the child. It must always be done as an act of love.)



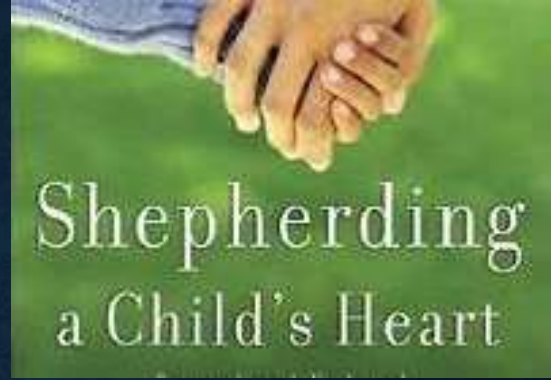
We must never pursue methods which only produce “good behavior”. They do not point your child to the “life-giving truth that God sent his Son to set people free from sin”.

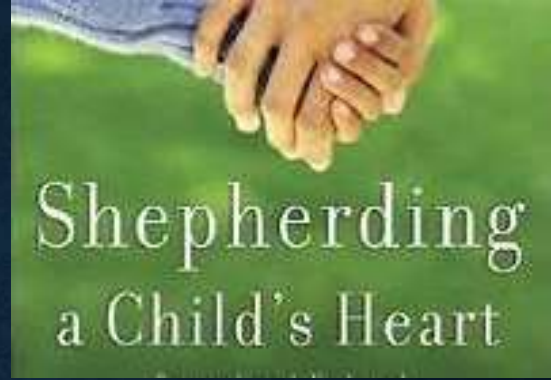


Chapter 8: Embracing Biblical Methods:

**Communication is Dialogue, not
Monologue**

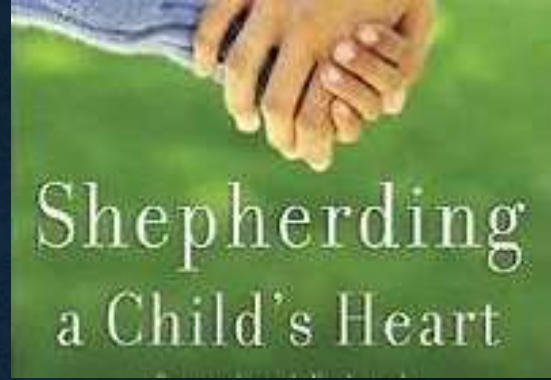
- Communication is not just learning how to express your thoughts, it is learning how to draw out the thoughts of another.
- Your first objective in correction is not to tell your children how you feel. You must try to understand what is going on inside them.
- You want to understand their inner struggle and try to see the world through their eyes. Jesus did this for us Heb. 4:14-16





Shepherding
a Child's Heart

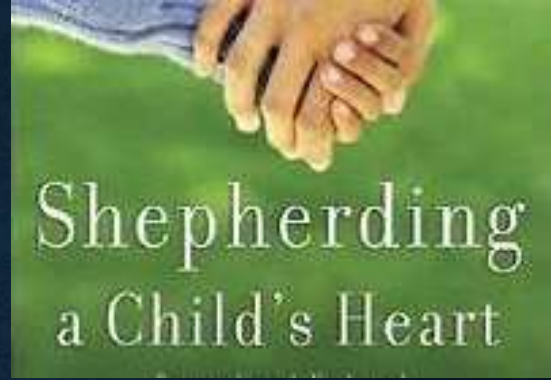
Chapter 9: Embracing Biblical Methods: Types of Communication



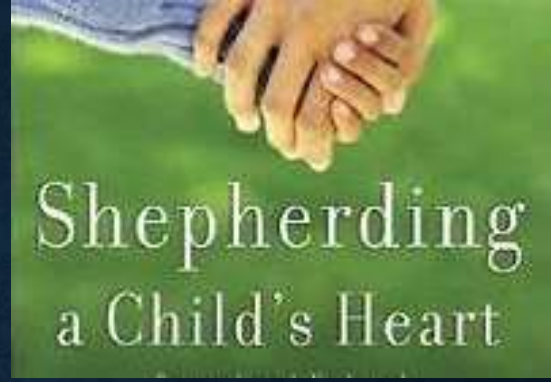
Communication should include, encouragement, correction, rebuke entreaty, instruction, warning, teaching, and prayer,



Chapter 9: Embracing Biblical Methods: A Life of Communication



**This is where the concept
“Shepherding a child’s heart”
comes to life. It means helping
them understand themselves,
God’s works, the ways of God, how
sin works in the human heart and
how the gospel comes to them at
the most profound level**



A wise parent talks when your children are in the mood to talk, not when you are.

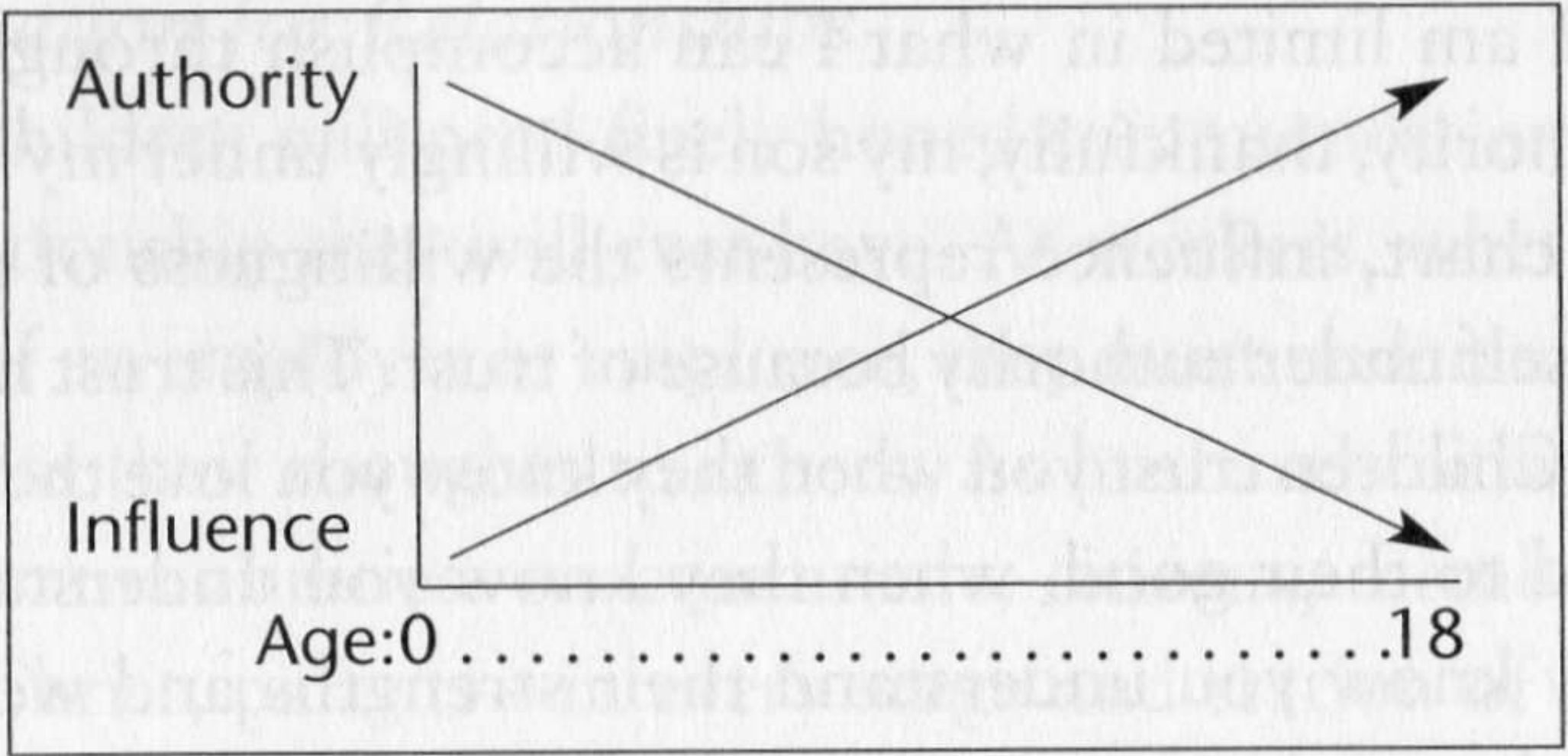
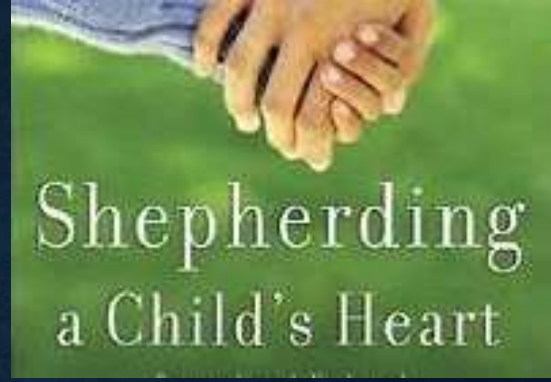
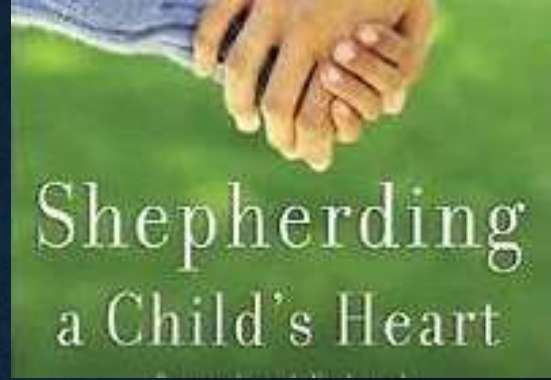


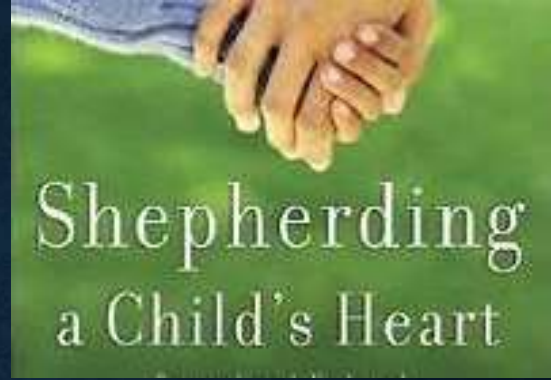
Figure 6 Authority/Influence Continuum

Children know when they have a relationship with people who are wise and discerning. Someone who knows and understands them. Someone who loves and is committed to them.





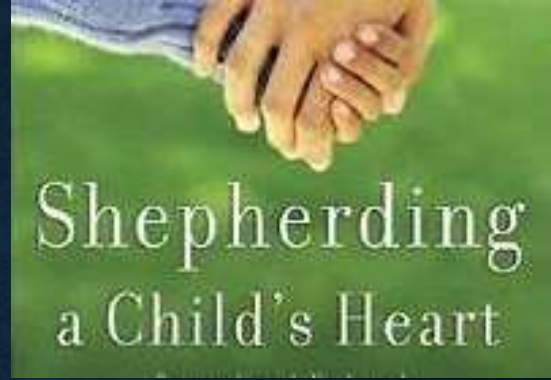
Chapter 11: Biblical Methods: The Rod



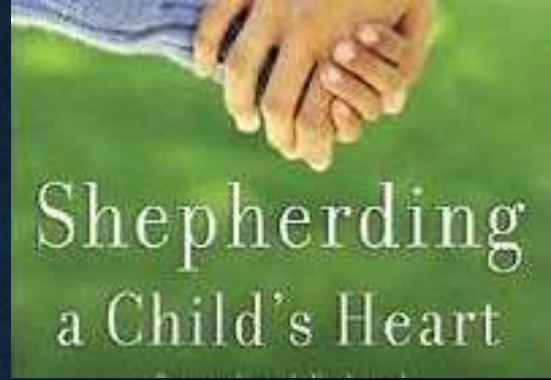
Foolishness *is* bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

Proverbs 22:15

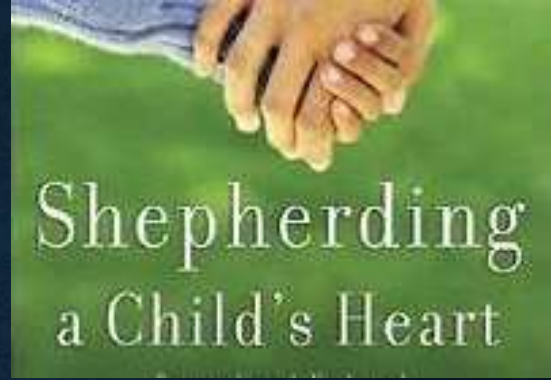
Reasons people might resist biblically understood spanking



- Perhaps they themselves were abused. Maybe they experienced discipline that was done out of anger. Perhaps they were “struck on the fly” by parents who were venting anger or frustration. As children, they may have experienced fear, hurt, and cruel abuse. Perhaps they thought, “When I am a parent, I will never do that to my kids”



- I can understand the resistance of many parents to corporal discipline.
- If that was your experience I heartily agree....

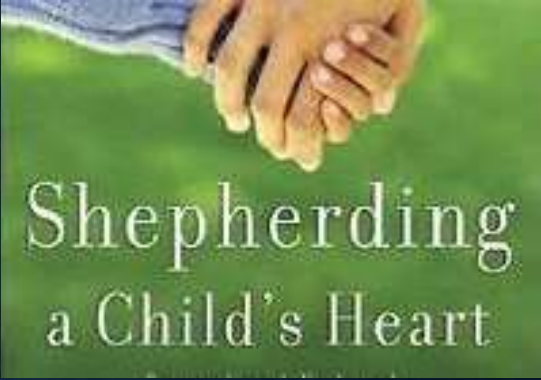


- We are not speaking of childishness. Children do childish things. They spill the milk at the breakfast table. They try to give their teddy bear a drink of the orange juice. We don't discipline for childishness even when it is terrible inconvenient. p. 102

Nor is using the rod...

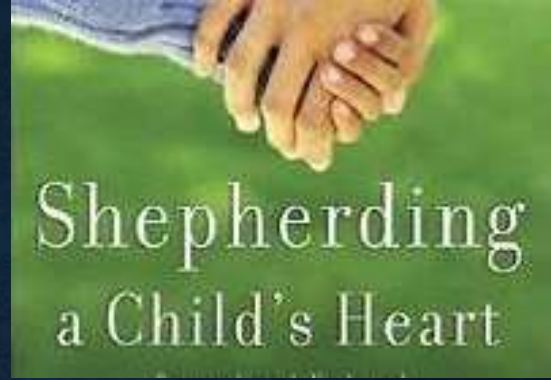
- It is not the right to an unbridled temper.
- It is not the right to hit our children whenever we wish.
- It is not the venting of frustration.
- It is not retribution.
- It is not vindictive punishment.





Proverbs 29:15

The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left
to himself brings shame to his mother.



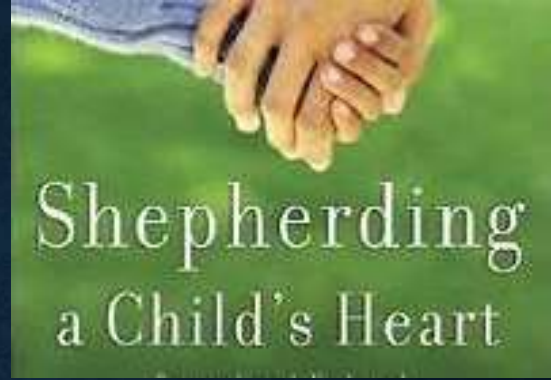
- It is an act of faith. God has mandated its use.
- It is an act of faithfulness towards the child.
- It is a responsibility.
- It is a physical punishment.
- It is a rescue mission.

Objections

- I love my children too much to spank them.
- I am afraid I will hurt them.
- I am afraid it will make him rebellious.
- I am afraid of teaching them to hit.
- It doesn't work.
- I am afraid of being arrested for child abuse.



Shepherding
a Child's Heart



Chapter 12: Embracing Biblical Methods: An Appeal to the Conscience

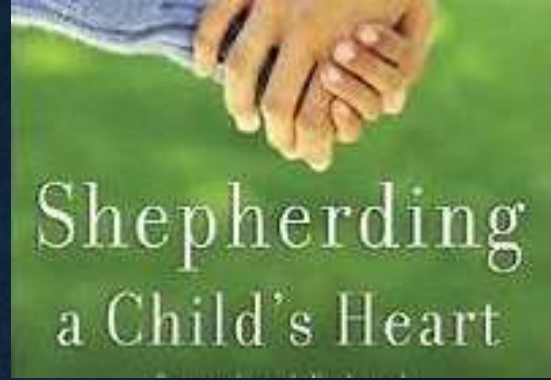
Awakening their consciences



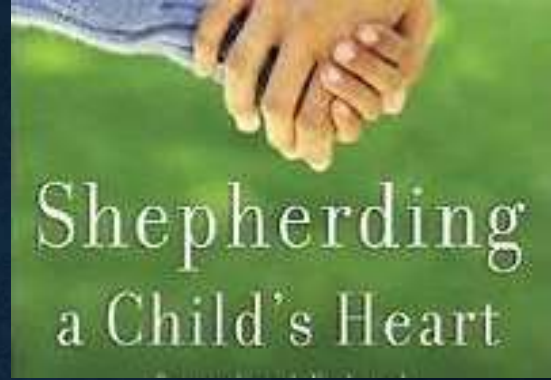
Shepherding
a Child's Heart

- The God given conscience is your ally and discipline. Your most powerful appeals will be those that smite the conscience.
- Appealing to the conscience is like the background of a painting. It may come before or after other forms of discipline.

The central focus of child rearing is to bring children to a sober assessment of themselves as sinners. They need to understand the mercy of God, who offered Christ as a sacrifice for sinners. You need to address the heart as the fountain of behavior.

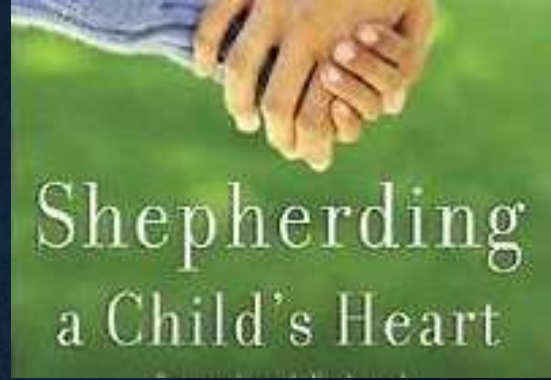


Shepherding Through the Stages of Childhood

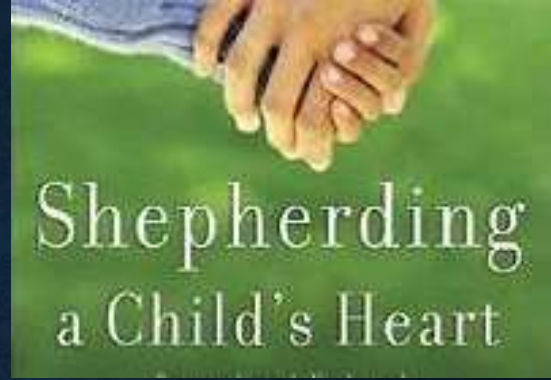


- Chapter 14 Infancy to Childhood: Training Objectives
- Chapter 15 Infancy to Childhood: Training Procedures
- Chapter 16 Childhood: Training Objectives
- Chapter 17 Childhood: Training Procedures
- Chapter 18 Teenagers: Training Objectives
- Chapter 19 Teenagers: Training Procedures

Chapter 14



- Young children must learn they have been made for God. They have a duty to Him. He has the right to rule them. They owe obedience.



Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. Eph 6:1-4

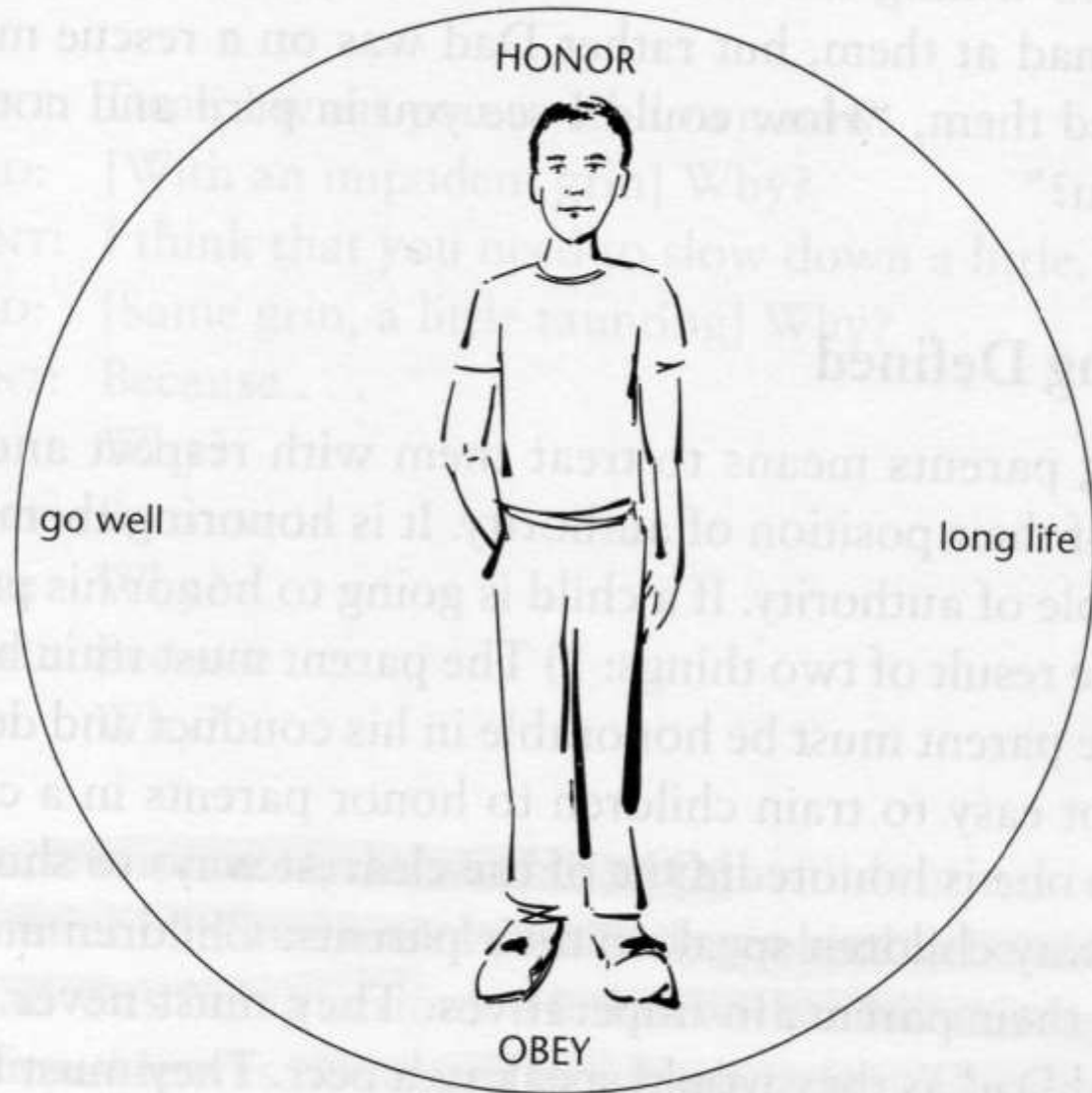


Figure 7 Circle of Safety



Shepherding a Child's Heart

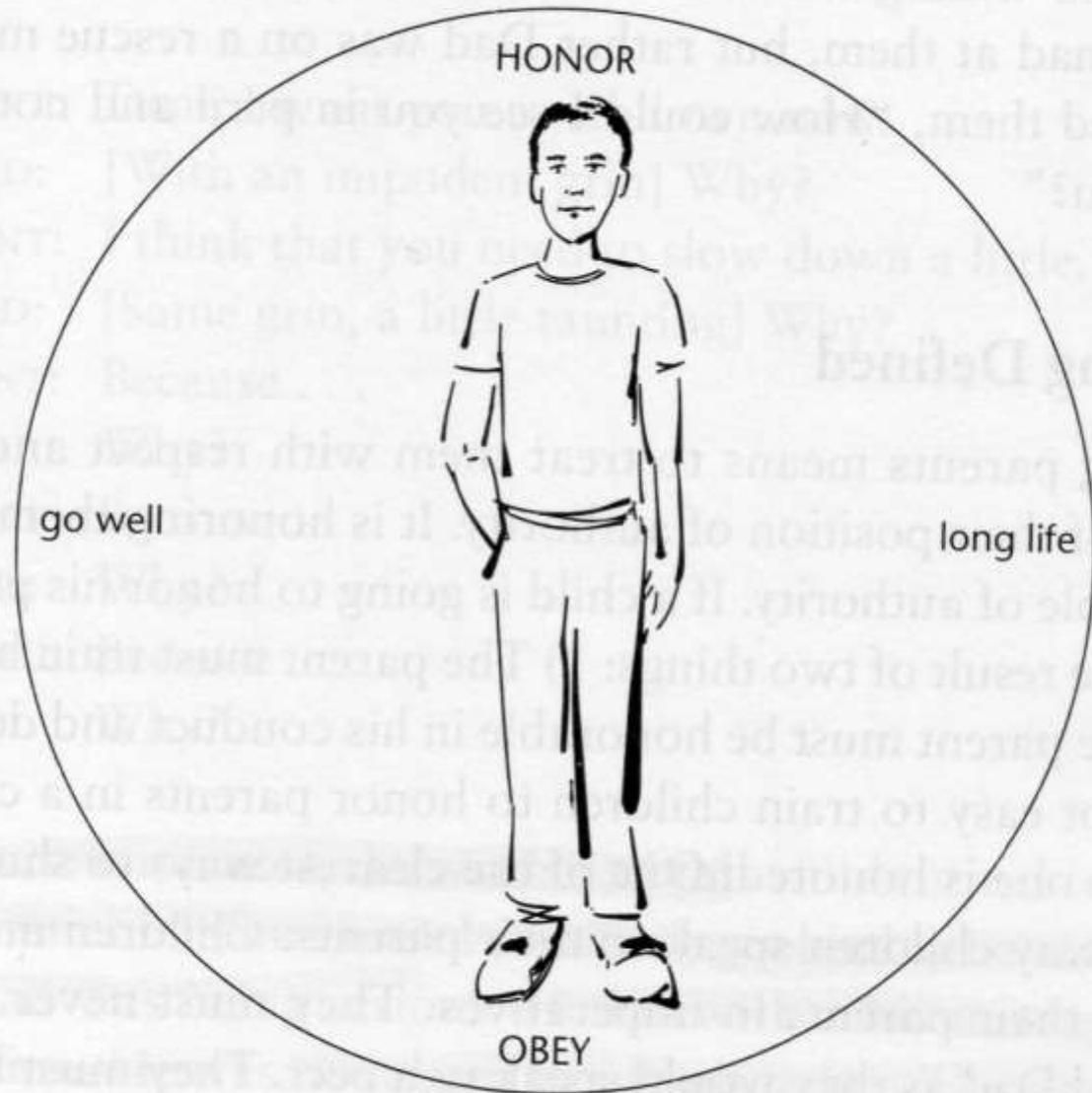


Figure 7 Circle of Safety



Shepherding a Child's Heart

Remembering the Gospel



Shepherding
a Child's Heart

The gospel is in one word, “Good News”. It means that God has demonstrated His love by giving His Son as a payment for our sin. It means we had no means to pay the debt we owed to God, so He paid it Himself. It provides for us the forgiveness, hope, strength and power to live as His children. It then means that we will live forever with Christ enjoying the blessings that the gospel purchased.

