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Grace-Based Parenting



Synopsis

Parents in our post-modern world tend to be committed to but anxious about their child-rearing responsibilities. They've tried the countless parenting books on the market, but many of these are strident, fear-based books that loving parents instinctively reject, while still searching for direction. Now Dr. Tim Kimmel, founder of Family Matters ministries, offers a refreshing new look at parenting. Rejecting rigid rules and checklists that don't work, Dr. Kimmel recommends a parenting style that mirrors God's love, reflects His forgiveness, and displaces fear as a motivator for behavior. As we embrace the grace God offers, we begin to give it-creating a solid foundation for growing morally strong and spiritually motivated children. Releasing in an affordable trade paper edition, this revolutionary book presents a whole new way to nurture a healthy family.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Kimmel, author and founder of Family Matters ministries, likens many Christian parents' attempts at rearing children to putting together a puzzle without first studying the completed picture located on the box's cover. Kimmel states that families of faith tend toward extremes, either being overly permissive or overly legalistic. This is not a particularly new concept, but Kimmel pulls it off with interesting storytelling and sound biblical parallels. He says Christians frequently believe that the battle for a child's heart and soul is fought on the outside-with rigid rules and boundaries-when in fact just the opposite is true. He underscores the importance of communicating the unconditional love that Christ offers and affirming this timeless message of grace to one's family. Despite the numerous examples the author cites where parents fail, this text is overwhelmingly upbeat with

hope and possibility: Parents who strive to live a life of faith characterized by daily trust in God will pass on this message of possibility and potential to their offspring. Kimmel asserts that this "radical" mode of parenting will meet the three essential needs in kids' lives: for security, significance and strength. He assures parents that these needs can be met with grace-laced love, purpose and hope. Kimmel's gentle heart is evident in every chapter, and his obvious passion will spur frustrated parents to keep at the task with new resolve and optimism. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

"God gives us His grace - and each of us needs it. We also need to extend that gift to our children. Tim's many years of experience in grace-based parenting - both with his own family and teaching others - will help you give hope to your children." - Dennis Rainey, President of FamilyLife "Tim Kimmel writes with humor, hope, and an honesty that allows us all to let down our guard and allow God to meet us in our fears and regrets." - Dan B. Allender Ph.D., --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Grace Based Parenting by Dr. Tim Kimmel is now on a short list of books that I would put in the hands of any parent that was willing to take it and read it! The short space that I provide for the review of this book is inadequate for the amount of life-changing parenting issues and ideas that are discussed. So while I paint with a very broad brush to hit the highlights of this book, I highly recommend you pick it up and give it a read yourself. Dr. Kimmel begins his book by describing the current popular parenting approaches that he sees today including; Fear Based Parenting, Evangelical Behavior Modification Parenting, Image Control Parenting, High Control Parenting, Herd Mentality Parenting, Duct-Tape Parenting and Life Support Parenting. The rest of the book is spent showing the flaws in these parenting methods, while explaining what Grace Based Parenting is. Grace based parenting is not parenting without boundaries, rules, or discipline. Grace based parenting at its heart is parenting our kids the way God, through Jesus, has been a parent to us, His children. Grace is the primary way in which God has dealt with us. Using Scripture as His source Dr. Kimmel lays out the three driving needs of all people. 1.) A need for security 2.) A need for significance 3.) A need for strength. Dr. Kimmel spends the rest of the book describing how these three driving needs of children (and all people) are met and developed in grace based parents and grace based homes. A need for security is met by a child living in a home providing a secure love and granting freedom for them to be different. A need for significance is met by a child living in a

home that points the child to a significant purpose and allows them to be vulnerable. A need for strength is met in a home where a strong hope is demonstrated and taught and the child is given the freedom to make mistakes. Dr. Kimmel unpacks all of these from Scripture and through great story telling. There were many things that I really enjoyed about this book, but one thing really stuck out to me was the distinction that Dr. Kimmel made between fear based parenting and grace based parenting. In a world where there is lots of evil, and there is lots to fear, it can be easy for parenting decisions to be driven by fear. However, the great downfall is fear based parenting, and fear based decision making, always forgets to include one hugely important factor. What does it forget to factor in? The power of the God of the universe to be able to protect our children in the midst of an evil and often times fear inducing world that we live in. God is bigger than all that, and we cannot forget that truth! This book is full of hope, and encouragement! It is full of stories that will have you shedding tears of sadness to stories that will have you shedding tears of joy! It is a book that drives you to the Word of God! It drives you to your knees in thankfulness to how God has graciously dealt with you. It drives you to your knees to depend upon God for the help that you need to love and raise your children the same way that God loves and raises us as His children! I highly recommend Grace Based Parenting to all parents!

A breath of fresh air after so many other views that say you HAVE to spank or your children MUST obey instantly - kids need grace just like we do! This book is teaching us to love our children as we raise them in the discipline and admonition of the Lord, rather than focusing on outward behaviour or results.

This book is AMAZING! My husband and I are first time parents and were looking for something to read to give us guidance about how to parent. Both of our parents sets did the best job they could, but fell short in some areas and we wanted to do not only better, but do it in a way that would be pleasing to God and healthy. From the moment this book starts, it gives you a clear layout of different types of parenting. Starts with fear based, and then moves to grace based - which is where my husband and I want to be. It gives great examples and practical steps on how to raise Godly kids, and how to be more Godly yourself - accepting God's love, and then showing that Love to your kids. I highly recommend this book for first time parents as well as seasoned ones.

Just finished reading this. It's not a "how to" book with lists of suggestions, but "how to" rethink to understand that every child--person--needs security (love), significance (purpose), and strength

(hope). Dr. Kimmel stands against liberty, license and legalism and stands for grace: Good boundaries are necessary to live in God's grace and at the same time respect the differences and quirks of each child. I appreciated Dr. Kimmel's heart for God, His Word and love for people. I'm a grandparent and am sharing this book with two daughters. My grandchildren will be blessed because of it!

I really enjoyed this read! I'm actually a grandmother and found the principals in this book to be invaluable! We all need grace! I would encourage every parent and grandparent to pick it up and read it. It gives you the "how to" of giving your family the understanding that we all need!

It really wasn't until about the middle of the book that a lot of things clicked for me. I recommend this book for people to start reading when they have children about age 8.

i liked this book. A lot of really practical advice from a Christian view point. It really is common sense, treat your kid as God treats you. We are His spokesperson to them and can really affect how they end up viewing God later in life. This is not a checklist or recipe on how to make your kid a Christian nor a "do this" "don't do this" type book. It does point out the most basic needs of children and some ways that we can be in tune to their needs in order to show Gods love in a way that they will interpret it best. This is not a book that is pro spanking or anti spanking but more about shepherding your child via your OWN living breathing walk with God. Basically, the most important factor in shepherding your child's heart is letting them see you rely on Jesus daily through the good and bad. One of the best quotes //paraphrased// "why would your child want the faith you have if they are seeing you live a never joyful and always fearful life" Basically, If we aren't allowing God to work in our own daily struggles of life, why would we expect our kids to want to walk with God too?

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