

encouragement that flows from true relationships, yes, we can get down, discouraged, flattened.

Jesus did **not** call any of us to be super-achievers. He did call us to peace, love, and relationships. It's a peace that flows from His words, "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27). Yet, when we are overcommitted, overstimulated, and exhausted by endless pursuits, we lose track of peace, people . . . and of God.

Speaking of tracks, what kind have you been on lately? Are you regularly feeding and nurturing your relationship with Christ and with spiritually mature friends? Or are you trying to be super-student or super-worker or some other super-kind on your own? A super-parent producing super-kids? Doesn't He want godly seed?

In Ephesians, Paul described how we as believers in Christ have been brought near to Christ by *His work*, not *our work*. He also reveals the work of the Holy Spirit within us individually and corporately as the body of Christ.

God longs to see peace and love reign in us. His Spirit draws us to a greater intimacy with Himself and leads us into close relationships with God's people. If you're flattened, you'll miss His greater gifts of peace, fellowship, love, and real life. His peace is super!

Watch out what values you are pushing in your kids!!

REFLECTION

- Do I have a life that is driven by achievement and goals, or one that reflects my relationship with God and His people? How can I know?
- How can I achieve a more peaceful, Christ-centred pace in my life?
- What does godly parenting look like?

The peace AND love of God passes all understanding.



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Central Mountains Baptist Church

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Flattened Kids

Children who are pushed to 'succeed' become what one author calls "flattened".

—Jeffrey Kluger and Alice Park
Do You Want To Raise A Superkid?
TIME Magazine, April 30, 2001

So, are you flattened by those who parented you? The authors of this article were showing the negative effects that "superkid" parenting has on children and adults. If you've been involved in a multitude of academic and extracurricular stuff since you were a tadpole, they feel that you have been "flattened" by too much doing and not enough warm, loving relating. **You may be emotionally dull and insensitive.** (Is this really the kind of children you want to raise?.. Unable or barely able to relate?)

..., it is interesting to see how much time people spend *doing things* rather than simply .. spending time with others. When we stop feeling the warmth and





Our Home A Better Way

Today, we consider two (further) steps to better parenting:

1. Discard

methods,

(Exodus 20:3) ""You shall have no other gods before Me."

(Exodus 20:17) ""You shall not covet""

(Mark 12:29-31) "Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. {30} 'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. {31} "And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.""

(Ezekiel 14:3) ""Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity. Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them?"

(Ezekiel 14:7-8) ""For anyone of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who separates himself from Me and sets up his idols in his heart and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, then comes to a prophet to inquire of him concerning Me, I the LORD will answer him by Myself. {8} "I will set My face against that man and make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of My people. Then you shall know that I am the LORD."

(Joel 2:13) "So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm."

(Proverbs 4:23) "Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life."

(2 Chronicles 16:9) ""For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars.""

(Matthew 23:26) ""Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also."

(Ezekiel 36:25-27) ""Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. {26} "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. {27} "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will



keep My judgments and do them."

Superficial parenting methods:

◆ **R** _____,

(1 Corinthians 3:13-14) "each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. {14} If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward."

◆ **Playing with E** _____,

(James 1:20) "for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

(Proverbs 22:24-25) "Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go, {25} Lest you learn his ways ..."

◆ **L** _____ **out,**

(Psalms 46:10) "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

(1 Corinthians 11:28) "But let a man examine himself, ..."

(Galatians 6:4) "But let each one examine his own work, ..."

2. Commit to _____ parenting,

◆ **P** _____,

(Psalms 139:23-24) "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; {24} And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting."

◆ **R** _____,

(Hebrews 4:12) "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

◆ **Full C** _____,

(1 Chronicles 28:9) ""As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever."

(Philippians 3:10) "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,"

