

happy regardless of what that means to you.” In terms of issues of the heart, you have two sinning children. Two children are preferring themselves before the other.

Two children are breaking God’s law. Sure, the circumstances are different.

One is taking the toy that the other has. The other is keeping the advantage.

The circumstances are different, but the heart issue is the same—“I want my happiness, even at your expense.” You see, then, how heart attitudes direct behaviour. It is always true.

All behaviour is linked to some attitude of the heart. Therefore, discipline must address attitudes of the heart.

This understanding does marvellous things for discipline. It makes the heart the issue, not just the behaviour. It focuses correction on deeper things than changed behaviour. The point of confrontation is what is occurring in the heart.

Your concern is to unmask your child’s sin, helping him to understand how it reflects a heart that has strayed. That leads to the cross of Christ. It underscores the need for a Saviour. It provides opportunities to show the glories of God who sent His Son to change hearts and free people enslaved to sin.

This emphasis is the fundamental tenet of this book: the heart is the wellspring of life. Therefore, parenting is concerned with shepherding the heart. You must learn to work back from the behaviour you see to the heart, exposing heart issues for your children. In short, you must learn to engage them, not just reprove them. (pp. 21f)

Children don’t merely bicker.

They bicker for reasons. And parents can learn to address both the behaviour and the reasons.



MOTHER'S DAY, 2016

Parental Shepherding.

Let’s take a familiar example from any home where there are two or more children.

The children are playing and a fight breaks out over a particular toy.

The classic response is, “Who had it first?” This response misses heart issues. “Who had it first?” is an issue of justice. Justice operates in favour of the child who was the quicker draw in getting the toy to begin with. If we look at this situation in terms of the heart, the issues change.

Now you have two offenders. Both children are displaying hardness of heart toward the other.

Both are being selfish.

Both children are saying, “I don’t care about you or your happiness. I am only concerned about myself. I want this toy. It is the condition of my happiness. I will have it and be





Our Home

Parents as Shepherds

(Ezekiel 34:2) "... Woe to the shepherds of Israel .."

We can isolate 6 principles of shepherding that can be applied to our homes:

1. style by choice, Psalm 23:1

(Ezekiel 34:1-2) "And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, {2} "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: "Woe to the shepherds of Israel .."

(Ephesians 6:4) "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

(Ephesians 5:28-29) "So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. {29} For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church."



2. to satisfy, Psalm 23:2, 5-6



(John 6:35) "... "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

(Ezekiel 34:2-3) "'Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? {3} "You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock."

Dad the shepherd

3. your kids, Psalm 23:3

(John 10:3) "... and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."

(John 10:27) "'My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."



(Ezekiel 34:4) "'The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them."

(1 Peter 3:7) "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, ..."

4. the life, Psalm 23:3-4

(Ezekiel 34:5-6) "'So they were scattered because there was no shepherd; and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered. {6} "My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, My flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching for them."

(John 10:1-4) "'Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. {2} "But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

{3} "... and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. {4} "And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice."

(John 10:11) "'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."



5. to protect, Psalm 23:4

(John 10:28-30) "'And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. {29} "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and

no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. {30} "I and My Father are one."

(1 Peter 3:7) "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, ..."

(Ezekiel 34:4) "'The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them."



6. to godliness, Psalm 23:4

(Hebrews 12:6-11) "For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." {7} If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? {8} But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. {9} Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? {10} For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. {11} Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."

(Proverbs 13:24) "He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly."

(Proverbs 22:15) "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him."

(Proverbs 29:15) "The rod and rebuke give wisdom, ..."

