A Wise Parent - Class #3

Fear Not: Fear can often drive how we parent

What are we afraid of?

- The Unknown.
- Crash & Burn.
- Outside Influences.
- Being "exposed" for our "failures" or "shortcomings" as parents.
- Genuine fear for safety of our child.
- LOSING CONTROL!

Why are we afraid? Why do we parent out of fear?

- We value man's estimation over God's.
- We fall to social pressure, focusing on our reputation.
- We feel ill equipped to deal with something unfamiliar or unwanted.
- We lack belief, trust, or understanding of God's character and sovereignty.

What causes us to parent out of fear? What do the things we are afraid of, and the reasons we are afraid show us about our view of God?

What does God's word say?

- **2 Timothy 1:7 -** *For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*
- How can we act on the power, love, and self-control that this verse reminds us that we have?
- How does that make a difference in our thoughts? In our parenting?

What does God's word say?

- **1 John 4:16-19 -** *So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.* ***There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.*** *For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us.*
  - Do we understand God's love for us? Do we rest in it?
  - How can a better grasp of God's love make us less fearful?
  - How does that translate in parenting?

- **Romans 2:4 -** *Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*
  - God's kindness is meant to lead us to repentance!
  - How do we wrongly use fear in the way we discipline and correct?
  - Do we endeavor to emulate this and lead our children to repentance through kindness instead of fear or threats of fear?

What are steps we can take to help not parent out of fear?

- Seek to know God's Word better! In his Word we find out who He is!
- Pray for God to change our view for our children (Long view, God's plan vs. Our own).
- Confess our own fears.

Scan for notes & resources.

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