

14 Parenting Principles

from *Parenting* by Paul David Tripp

1. **Calling:** Nothing is more important in your life than being one of God's tools to form a human soul.
2. **Grace:** God never calls you to a task without giving you what you need to do it. He never sends you without going with you.
3. **Law:** Your children need God's law, but you cannot ask the law to do what only grace can accomplish.
4. **Inability:** Recognizing what you are unable to do is essential to good parenting.
5. **Identity:** If you are not resting as a parent in your identity in Christ, you will look for identity in your children.
6. **Process:** You must be committed as a parent to long-view parenting because change is a process, not an event.
7. **Lost:** As a parent, you're not dealing just with bad behavior, but a condition that causes bad behavior.
8. **Authority:** One of the foundational heart issues in the life of every child is authority. Teaching and modeling the protective beauty of authority is one of the foundations of good parenting.

- 9. Foolishness:** The foolishness inside your children is more dangerous to them than the temptation outside of them. Only God's grace has the power to rescue fools.
- 10. Character:** Not all of the wrong your children do is a direct rebellion to authority; much of the wrong is the result of a lack of character.
- 11. False Gods:** You are parenting a worshiper, so it's important to remember that what rules your child's heart will control his behavior.
- 12. Control:** The goal of parenting is not control of behavior, but rather heart and life change.
- 13. Rest:** It is only rest in God's presence and grace that will make you a joyful and patient parent.
- 14. Mercy:** No parent gives mercy better than one who is convinced that he/she desperately needs it him/herself.