

Series: Parenting 911: Help Is on the Way!¹
THE FOUR FREEDOMS OF GRACE

1. One of the biggest issues for all Christians is to decide what is acceptable or unacceptable behavior. Specifically, what is “worldly?” *1 John 2:15-17*
 - A. Rather than *places* or *things* being worldly, these verses mean that “loving this evil world” is a *way of thinking*.
 - It’s easy for Christians to slip into legalism, defining the “evil world” with do’s and don’ts (mostly don’ts).
 - B. When culture presents options for us in entertainment, relationships, or consumption, we must ask: is this matter specifically addressed in scripture?
 - Hair length, style of shoe, and music style: do these make a person worldly?

The Bible does put great emphasis on modesty.

The Bible stresses that we treat others with kindness, generosity, and grace.

The Bible teaches that coarseness, rudeness, profanity, and sexual promiscuity are wrong.

C. God understands our dilemma and will help us. *Hebrews 4:14-16*

- The first question in any Christian’s life is always *desire*. Do we desire to serve God faithfully? Will we adjust our lives accordingly? *Proverbs 22:6*

God offers grace:

- I love you for who you are, not what you produce or accomplish.
- I love you as you are today, right now. I accept you as you are today, right now.
- I will never leave you or forsake you.

He also sets boundaries for us and expects us to be accountable: *Matthew 7:24-27*

Remember the three driving inner needs of children:

- The need for significance
- The need for strength
- The need for security

2. Grace-based families are homes where children are given...

A. The freedom to be different

B. The freedom to be vulnerable

When we understand God’s acceptance of us, we are free to be ourselves without pretense.

Kids need to know they can be real and we love them, understand them, and help them anyway.

C. The freedom to be candid

D. The freedom to make mistakes.

“Grace doesn’t make it uncomfortable for children to discover that they might not be that smart, talented, or clever. Parents who embrace grace make their homes a safe place for average kids to develop into extraordinary people.” (p. 212)

Win with love and consequences. When your children sin:

1. Respond, don’t react. Avoid condemnation
2. Consequences: “One of the most ungraceful things you can do is to circumvent the consequences of your children’s sin.
3. Discipline
4. Don’t beat yourself up.

¹ Much of the material for this sermon series comes from the book *Grace Based Parenting* by Dr. Tim Kimmel, © 2004, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville.