

Parenting 911: Help Is On the Way!  
**WHAT EVERY KID NEEDS<sup>1</sup>**

Ephesians 6:4

Don't make your children angry by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction approved by the Lord.

**1. Is grace a cop-out?**

A. What grace is: *1 John 2:1-6; John 3:17*

According to the *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, Grace is "God's unmerited free, spontaneous love for sinful man, revealed and made effective in Jesus Christ. As such it lies at the very heart of the Christian gospel. (p. 463)

"Grace is offered by God to man with the special purpose of accomplishing for man good things which he cannot achieve for himself. *It is quite the reverse of a reward for good conduct....*" (p. 465)

From these scriptures and commentary, we understand the following:

1. God has set boundaries by which we can fellowship with him. When we sin (which we all have) we cut ourselves off from God. i.e., we have not respected or lived by those boundaries.
2. God does not excuse our transgression, but pays for it on our behalf through the sacrifice of his son, Jesus.
3. Grace is a quality of God, himself, and is both free and without limit. *Romans 5:6-8*

What grace is not:

1. Grace is not lack of boundaries. *Romans 6:1-2*
2. Grace is not lack of accountability.
3. Grace is not a cop-out, but provides another chance.

**2. Every kid needs to feel secure**

- A. Kids feel secure when they know they are accepted as they are.
- B. Kids feel secure when they know they are affiliated with a loving and honoring family.
- C. Kids feel secure when they receive regular and generous affection.

**3. Every kid needs to feel significant**

Without a parent's deliberate and gracious involvement in identifying and developing potential, children can go into adulthood with a scarred, underdeveloped, or wasted purpose.

- A. Kids feel significant when they are regularly affirmed
- B. Kids feel significant when they know they have our attention
- C. Kids feel significant when they are gracefully admonished. *Proverbs 3:11-12*

To avoid disciplining your child because it makes you feel uncomfortable is to say you love your own best interests more than theirs.

**4. Every kid needs a strong hope**

- A. Kids develop a strong hope when they know their parents recognize their God-given abilities and liabilities and turn them into assets for their future.
- B. Kids develop a strong hope when their parents lead them and encourage them to live a great spiritual adventure.

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<sup>1</sup> Material for this sermon series comes from the book *Grace Based Parenting* by Dr. Tim Kimmel, © 2004, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville.