

# LEARNING TO WALK ON WATER

## HOW TO PARENT IN THIS SOCIAL MEDIA WORLD

Pastor E. Paul Allen – November 8, 2015

### 1. Open in prayer.

“Father, guide us as our Heavenly Father as we gather together to discover how to parent in faith, not in fear. Holy Spirit, thank you for the body of Christ where we can learn from one another’s life experiences as we trust in You, Amen.”

### 2. Introduction.

- a. Parenting is one of the few things we do in life that doesn’t require a license...but it’s something that lasts for a lifetime...once you’re a parent, you’re always a parent.
- b. Pastor Paul said, “Over the years, we’ve been on this never ending journey of parenting—sometimes in faith, sometimes in fear—but always trusting the One who is our perfect Father. Getting out of the boat may be scary at times, but the results are amazing.”
- c. Question: When you look back at your own journey as a parent, what situations come to your mind where you either parented in faith or parented in fear? (Or a combination of both)

### 3. The “Shema” (hear) is the Hebrew word that begins the most important prayer in Judaism. The whole Shema prayer, which includes verses 4-9, is spoken daily in the Jewish tradition. (Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

### 4. When we look at the first part of this prayer (verses 4-6) we realize to trust Christ in our parenting is to embrace the Father’s love.

- a. Men, your love and acceptance by God isn’t based on how good you are—Jesus is our good enough—you’re loved because of what Christ has done for you not because of what you can do for Him.
- b. How does your view of God (upward—loving God completely) affect the way you parent your kids?
- c. Pastor Paul shared, Before we (he and Sandy) understood grace, we both parented out of our past, mixed with a pinch of the latest greatest parenting books, a dash of doing the opposite of our parents, and a heaping teaspoon of the law. What did/does your parenting look like?

### 5. There are no perfect kids, no perfect parents...but we serve a perfect God who can supernaturally live in and through us and can supernaturally transform our kids as well.

- a. When you embrace the Father’s love you don’t define who you are by their failures or accomplishments...you’re called to be faithful and to trust Christ with your kids. What does it look like when you define yourself by your kids’ failures or accomplishments?
- b. You can’t make your kids come to Christ...that’s the responsibility of the Holy Spirit. But you can live out what it means to be a Christ follower, explain to them what it means to be a Christ follower, provide opportunities to invite them to become a Christian and pray that they receive Christ. Discuss how this is lived out in your parenting.

### 6. The next way we can trust Christ in our parenting is to embrace our calling as a parent. (Read Deuteronomy 6:7-9)

- a. Pastor Paul shared the following quote out of Pastor Derwin’s book, **The High Definition Leader**. “*We can’t be and do what God calls us to if we fail to realize what Jesus has done and what He will do through us.*” How does that statement clarify how we embrace our calling as a parent?
- b. Pastor Paul challenged the men with Colossians 3:19-21. Read and discuss this passage.

**7. Discuss the four phases of parenting and how you can apply them to your own parenting.****a. Caretaker**

This is a time of total dependence on you for safety, health, and well-being. Establishing clear values during this phase is important. Why did Pastor Paul encourage moms not to stay in this phase?

**b. Coach**

A good coach knows his players, knows how and when to push them to be their best, knows how to train them, and teaches them to follow the playbook. How does that translate for our parenting?

c. Discuss how coaching is often more caught than taught. Share examples in your own parenting. Share how you are coaching your kids in the five characteristics of a Transformer.

d. Discuss Pastor Paul's statement, "Sometimes, we're so determined to make sure our kids have the things we didn't have, we instill a sense of entitlement and we rob them of the joy and rewards of working towards a goal or sacrificing for something."

e. Discuss how Hebrews 11:1 and Proverbs 22:6 are important in our coaching.

**f. Counselor**

Counseling isn't telling them what to do but encouraging them to make decisions according to the vision and value you've instilled in them through your caretaking and coaching.

g. Why did Pastor Paul encourage you to be a "safe place" for your kids to come to you with any questions?

**h. Consultant**

Don't give your kids "self-help" advice. Remind them to make decisions out of God's upward (love God completely) inward (love yourself correctly), and outward (love others compassionately) love.

**8. As we learn to walk on water and trust Christ with our parenting, remember that we can embrace the help of other parents. (Read Hebrews 10:24-25)**

a. How does doing life together in our TC groups help us learn from one another as parents?

b. Pastor Paul said, "The world tries to make us guilty or ashamed when we face difficulties with our kids. He wants us to hide our struggles. But Jesus took our guilt and He has created us as a family to care for one another". Are you facing struggles with your kids today? Remember, you have a family (God's family) here to walk with you.

**9. We don't have to parent in fear. It's never too late to get out of the boat and trust Christ with our parenting.****10. Closing prayer.**

"For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7