

## Session 1 – Successful Parenting

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Every parent wants to feel successful. Every parent wants to feel as if his or her efforts are paying off. This is natural and understandable for what is more important to parents than their children? There is nothing more important. And this is continuously demonstrated by the amount of time, energy and resources that parents pour into their children. In fact, for many parents if they do not feel their parenting has been successful they will feel as if their life has not been successful. So how will most parents go about measuring the success or non-success of their parenting?

1. Most parents will measure the success or non-success of their parenting by the \_\_\_\_\_, but this approach is flawed.

a. It is flawed because parents are not in a position to dictate parental results because they do not have that kind of \_\_\_\_\_ (Jeremiah 10:23).

b. It is flawed because it is only God who is in a position to dictate parental results for He is \_\_\_\_\_ over all things (Psalm 115:3).

2. The best way to measure parental success is by whether or not we are in fact faithfully striving to bring \_\_\_\_\_ in all things, including our parenting.

- a. This is the best measurement of parental success because it is \_\_\_\_\_ and it is therefore something we can control by God's grace (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- b. This is the best measurement of parental success because it is also \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 24:1, Colossians 1:16).
3. Parents who are seeking to bring glory to God in all things including their parenting will make the \_\_\_\_\_ of their children their highest parental priority (Matthew 28:19, 20).
4. Though parents who are seeking to bring glory to God in all things may or may not be blessed with children who come to salvation, they can \_\_\_\_\_ that their parenting efforts have been successful (Psalm 127:1, 2; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15).

### Conclusion

What is successful parenting? Successful parenting is not about results. Successful parenting is doing all things to the glory of God including our parenting. For in doing so not only have we glorified God in our parenting but we have put our children in the very best position to know God and be blessed by God. This is how we should view successful parenting.

## **Session 1 – Additional Study**

Do you believe that it is possible for those who have parented well, or in other words who have faithfully sought to put God's greatness on display, to have children who might reject their instruction as well as their example? Why?

Do you believe that it is possible for those who have not parented well, or in other words who have not faithfully sought to put God's greatness on display, to have children who might, in spite of their parents, choose to embrace God and His message of salvation? Why?

Do you believe that parents who have parented well, or in other words who have faithfully sought to put God's greatness on display, will have put their children in a much better position to be blessed by God than those parents who have not? Why?

How can parents put God's greatness on display in what they say to their children and how they say it to their children?

How can parents put God's greatness on display in what they do with their children and how they do it with their children?

Read Daniel 4:28-37 and then consider who should get the credit if our children turn out well and why.