

Lifetime Guarantee by Bill Gillham

Chapter 2 – How You Got into Your Fix

- I. **Slide – Lifetime book cover** - Gillham states that this chapter is not about raising children but rather how our childhood has set certain things in our mind. Aristotle said, "Give me a child until he is 7 and I will show you the man."
 - a. "The crucial first seven years of child's life play a pivotal role in determining how she turns out as an adult. It is indeed intriguing to realize that these initial years are so important for a child's growth. More than ever, the parents are under tremendous stress to create an environment that triggers positive mental, emotional, and physical development of their children."¹
 - b. Gillham does state that you may use this information to help you in your parenting.
- II. Walking after the Flesh is an expression that the Bible refers to times that we are not doing what the Lord wants us to do, but what the sinful old lifestyle is leading us.
 - a. **Romans 8:5 (NKJV)**
⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.
 - b. Flesh does not refer to the physical body. The physical body was created by God. The Flesh refers to the old things that the person desires to do because of the presence of sin. Sometimes called the Old Man.
 - c. **Ephesians 4:22 (NKJV)**
²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,
 - d. **Romans 6:6 (NKJV)**
⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

¹ SoulGuru, The Crucial First Seven Years of Child's Life and Mindful Parenting, <http://soulguru.com/crucial-first-seven-years-childs-life/>

e. Galatians 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

f. Romans 7:15-24 (NKJV)

¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

¹⁶ If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is* good.

¹⁷ But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find.

¹⁹ For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice.

²⁰ Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.

²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.

²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

g. Romans 7:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ I thank God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

III. The real enemy here is Satan who deceived Eve from the beginning and his desire is to destroy families. So we should direct our anger toward him not against our parents or even ourselves. But we want to learn from this and go forward.

IV. **Slide** - Childhood examples.

a. The Perfectionist – A parent who is a perfectionist and tries to teach his child to be perfect will learn to accept that he can't do anything right no matter how hard he tries. When he becomes a Christian he may become legalistic.

- b. No Physical Love – a child who doesn't receive any physical love such as hugs and holding hands will learn more about herself than about her family. Thinking that she is not lovely.
- c. The Ignored Child – A child who is ignored does not necessarily mean that they are abandoned but that their parents are so busy that they don't have time for them. "Little kids spell love t-i-m-e". If parents are so busy that they don't have time to spend with their child, the child feels like they are worthless. We hear it all the time, quality time over quantity time. But there are not short cuts for that quality relationship. It happens by being together. Spending time shows that they have worth.
 - i. My mother-in-law gave me the greatest compliment when Jimmy was young when she gave me a comic strip that said something like this. "Three children were playing and bragging about their dads. One said 'my dad is a pilot and he travels all over the world'. The other said, 'mine is an astronaut and he travels to outer space'. The third said, 'My dad is right over there'."
- d. **Slide** - Do it this way – Some parents will not let their child do something their own way. Yes you have lots of experience with much ability to do something. That parent will not let the child do it their way. They have to continue to correct them or their body language shows that they did it wrong. This can be done by saying it to them, "That is wrong". Redoing it after they are finished. Rolling their eyes at the child, chuckling at them for how they did something. This communicates that the child is stupid or not capable of doing something on their own. They shutdown ideas that the child has before it is even produced. The child thinks he or she is not capable solving problems.
- e. Ridiculed – Right out verbal and nonverbal ridicule of course states that he is blatantly stupid with comments like, "you're ugly, you can't do anything right."
- f. Non-teaching time – Not taking the time to teach life skills to the child. Falls under the category of the others mentioned. Again shows that they are not valuable enough to train them for this life.

- g. **Slide** - Overprotection – This is a common one that is seen in schools and sometimes called a helicopter parent. This is someone who doesn't allow the child to learn life skills by practical living. They won't allow them to fail. Won't allow to learn from the failures, because they are always there for them. The Disney story of the Fox and the Hound is an example. They won't be able to survive on their own.
- h. Indulgence – The child gets whatever he or she wants. It teaches that the frame of mind is that I am Number One. My needs are the main thing. If something goes wrong it's not their fault, but the system, the teacher, the friend, societies' fault, but not mine.
 - i. Example of the boy who hit my windshield and broke it...
Indulgence- This is accomplished by buying every toy the child wants, never saying no to something.
 - ii. Letting the child choose what he or she wants no matter what you think is best for him or for the family. The child gets to choose when he or she stays home from school, home from church, to be part of the church activity. The child will think of God who is there to take of my needs. I am not to submit to Him, but He is to submit to my wants and desires.
- i. Stonewalling – or hiding your emotions so that the child doesn't know what you are thinking. So they learn to depend on their emotions as the ultimate truth. Especially true for girls.
- j. **Slide** - I'm sorry – Let me add this one. As parents we are trying to figure out things also. We need admit we're wrong and apologize to our children. Let them know when you've done wrong to them and say I'm sorry.
- k. Performance Based Acceptance – the biggest one is this - if you perform properly I'll love you and if you don't I won't give you my love. When your child does wrong do not attack the person but the wrong that had been done. Simply tell them that they lied, don't call them a liar. You want to confirm that you love them, but you do not like the wrong they had done. This is not to step aside that they are a sinner. We are sinners because we sin. God hates our sin. He sent

Jesus to die for our sin. God loves us. All other religions other than Christianity is based on the PBA.

- i. "If you have surrendered to Jesus as Lord and Savior, then God has already accepted you completely. He couldn't love or accept you more if you had never sinned. And He'll never love or accept you more if you had never sinned. And He'll never love or accept you less no matter how often you do sin."

V. **Slide** - God's Way

- a. Perfectionist – God is perfect and He knows your faults and yet He loves you.
- b. No Physical Love – God demonstrated His for you while you were still a sinner and died for you.
- c. The Ignored Child – God will never leave you nor forsake you.
- d. **Slide** - Do it this way – There is only one way to God and that's through Jesus Christ. Then God gives you gifts and abilities that are unique to you that helps you minister in a way that only you can.
- e. Ridiculed – God does reprove you, but then He corrects you trains you.
- f. Non-teaching time – Again He trains you.
- g. **Slide** - Overprotection – God has given you angels to protect you, but He does not hover over without allowing you to have the freedom to serve Him.
- h. Indulgence – God owns a cattle on a 1000 hills and it is available for you. It's not that He gives it all to us to not allow us learn on our own, but we need to depend on Him for all our needs.
- i. Stonewalling – God has revealed to us, but again we don't take the time to learn about Him through His Word.
- j. **Slide** - I'm sorry – God is holy, pure and perfect. We need to confess our sin to Him and frees us to serve Him.
- k. Performance Based Acceptance – God accepts us because we are His creation.

VI. **Slide** - In church

- a. Those of you who have more than one child knows that each child is different. What is good for one child is not good for another. We need to get to know the children. Sometimes it's okay to allow one child in class to do something when you don't allow another child to do it. When Angie was in first grade she would not sit down. I had to allow her to stand and walk around. Now we can't allow a child to jeopardize the teaching of the Word, but if it is not disturbing that, you may have to allow a child to do something different. Spencer cannot sit there quiet. Sometimes that disturbs the class and other times it's fine. We cannot be on him the whole time to be quiet. I don't think he can do it right now in his maturing process of his life.
- b. Perfectionist – We got to understand where the child is in their life. Of course, we really don't know. But the best you can tell is by the body language and his or her age. We can't expect perfection. We're here to train and teach them.
- c. No Physical Love – Of course, you need to be careful about physical love. When I first came a teacher at Clough Pike I went to Mr. Lehr and asked him, "What do you do about students who want to hug you?" He said he hugs them. It may be their only form of physical love they experience that day. But of course, you need be careful and you don't overdo it. You don't always initialize it. There are times though that you can.
- d. The Ignored Child – We need to recognize the child. Say hello and tell them you're glad they're there.
- e. **Slide** - Do it this way – This is the one I've thought of much since I've read this book. Give students responsibilities and you have to let them do it their way. You can show them a better way or an easier way, but don't go in and change what they had setup.
- f. Ridiculed – God does reproves you, but then He corrects you and trains you. We are not to ridicule a child or demean them.
- g. Non-teaching time – Sometimes you may have the best lesson plans, but something happens. There is a true teaching moment and you drop everything and learn from that.
 - i. When your child learns something new, be excited about it even though you've known about it for a long time Let them

explain to you what they have learned. You don't always have to add to it and correct them on every point.

- h. **Slide** - Overprotection – We need to train them for the real world. It needs to be age appropriate, but we need to train them to answer to the world about their faith. It takes discretion what to reveal to them about what people believe. Sometimes the plan is to give them the opportunity to fail so that they can learn. It's tough though.
- i. Indulgence – There is a time to allow a child something and a time to withhold. Discretion is the key when to give in.
- j. Stonewalling (showing emotions) – As leaders we need to be real. If you make a mistake, admit it. We're living out this Christian life together. Don't act like you have all the answers to the Bible or to life situations. Be real.
- k. **Slide** - I'm sorry – Again when you make a mistake admit. Apologize. Give yourself a ding.
- l. Performance Based Acceptance – Let the child who disobeys and is always disturbing the class know that you love them, that you care for them. And you like them. The Brethren Christian love is not based on performance but something much deeper.
- m. **Slide – Video – This is Discipling – This is Church**