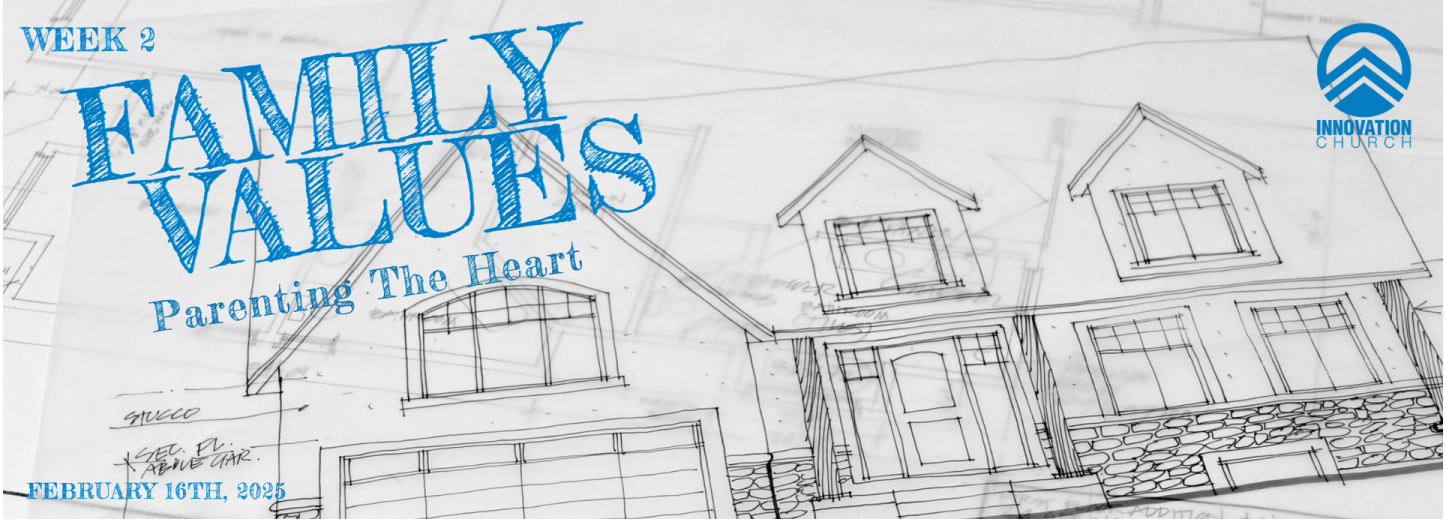

Parenting The Heart - Week 2

Sermon Notes

Paul teaches that - Religious **ritual** and outward **conformity** does NOT make a true disciple.

Which type of Parent have you been or did you have? Take our anonymous Poll HERE and see the results.

Today we look at… Are we Parenting the **Heart**?

Parenting the heart means teaching your kids the **why** behind their actions.

Philippians 3:3-12 3For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. 4though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!5I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. 6I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. 7I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. 8Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ 9and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. 10I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, 11so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! Pressing toward the Goal 12I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.

It's not just actions, not just show—real change starts from **below**!

The goal isn't outward behavior, but an inward **transformation**.

“Don’t let yourself become so concerned with raising a good kid that you forget you already have one.”

Focus more on **connecting** with their kids than constantly **correcting** them.

Connection shapes their hearts more than **correction** ever will.

Here are some practical action steps parents can take after hearing this message:

Focus on the Heart, Not Just Behavior – When correcting your child, ask why they acted a certain way and address their heart motivation, not just the outward behavior.

Model the Behavior You Want to See – Kids learn more from what you do than what you say. Show them integrity, patience, and love in your own actions. Sounds a lot like WK#1 - *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VRqNdBTTiA*

Have Intentional Conversations – Regularly talk with your child about why we make good choices, rather than just enforcing rules. Encourage questions and discussion.

Use Scripture to Guide Their (and your) Thinking – Teach them how biblical truths apply to their daily lives. Philippians 3:3-12 is a great place to start.

Pray With and For Your Child – Pray together about their struggles and decisions, and ask God to shape their hearts. (Here's a great resource - *https://theparentcue.org/app/*

Praise Heart Growth, Not Just Good Behavior – When they show kindness, patience, or honesty, recognize and celebrate their heart growth, not just their actions.

Give Grace, But Stay Consistent – Discipline with love, keeping the long-term goal in mind—raising kids who choose well because they understand the why.