

<https://www.stranraerrpcs.org/news/2020/4/21/the-promise-driven-family-how-our-covenant-theology-shapes-our-daily-lives>

William Still, "Bringing Up Children in Faith, Not Fear", 26 May 1968:

Your faith is really saying to God of them in loving tones, "They will not go astray. Your covenant, not what I say but what You say, will keep them, as I play my part. You speak to me by the covenant of grace that my children are not meant to go astray, and by this covenant You are asking me to say it over again, back to You, "They will not go astray." Who am I to argue with You, or disagree with You, or disbelieve You? I say it, Lord, not in a frantic effort to believe it, but I say it in Your faith for me and mine, which 'Your faith' we call grace when You have shown it to us. I therefore say in my heart and fervently believe, "They are Yours, O God, as I am Yours; they cannot go astray. I must train them in the authoritative rule of your love for me; and as You inclined me to respond to Your grace, one day, because of the obedience of faith of another faithful soul, so, as I am faithful for their sake, You will incline their hearts to You, also."

Your main prayer to God for them is not a desperate, "O God, save them," but, "O God, they are Yours, because they are born into this Christian home where You rule me and enable me to rule my household for You. They are Yours, keep them. This is Your responsibility, not mine. I must play my part, but I do so counting on You to do Your prior, greater, surer part." Keep God to his covenant. He loves you to do this, resting utterly and obediently on his word.

ealinglevy.files.wordpress.com/2017/04/faith-not-fear-final-doc-edited-v-2.pdf

- Confidence in God's Church

1 Peter 1:22, 2:1—**Love one another earnestly from a pure heart ... Put away all ... hypocrisy ...**

RPCI Family Day Conference 2024 In the World but Not of the World Raising Our Children in a Post-Christian Culture



Christian and Faithful have fled the City of Destruction, only to now enter Vanity Fair ... They now see with Heaven's eyes the schemes, traps, enticements and entertainments of the world in a new way ... Vanity Fair is ... the world, dressed in its best party dress. It is the place where the most seductive attractions of our world take centre stage in an attempt to steal our gaze, cool our resolve, and shake our confidence, which is to be in the God who is the maker and builder of the yet unseen city.

C J Lovik, Editor, The Pilgrim's Progress, Crossway 2009

What do we need to parent in a post-Christian culture?

1) EXPECTANT EQUIPPING

- In this world but not of this world
- Post-Christian?

Sam Mawhinney, Moderator of Presbyterian Church in Ireland: *We live in post Christian Europe and the culture and society is hostile to the church of Jesus Christ...* For those, like him, who live in the Republic of Ireland, he said that *"the speed of the change has been breath-taking."* He spoke of the introduction of same sex marriage in 2015 and the repeal of the Eighth amendment three years later that legalised abortion. *"Two of the primary teachings of Jesus and the Church were rejected, two foundation blocks of Christian teaching for society, marriage and the sanctity of life in the womb, were rocked and we felt the seismic ripples beneath our feet,"* Dr Mawhinney said.

www.presbyterianireland.org/News/June-2023/Hostility-and-hope-Confident-in-Christ.aspx

John Stevens, National Director of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches: *The UK is no longer a Christian nation in any meaningful sense. Less than 50% of the population identified as Christian in the recent census, whereas 37.5% claim no religion ... Evangelicals of all kinds are estimated to be only 2-3% of the population ... Like many Western nations, Britain is navigating the challenge of a post-Christian context, in which only a tiny minority are committed believers in the Lord Jesus, and the state balances the rights and interests of multiple faith communities, alongside a majority who have no religion.*

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/king-charles-christmas-message/>

- What has changed?
 - ◇ Technology
 - ◇ Culture
Truth has become subjective ... This leads to ... the rise of individual sovereignty. (Julie Lowe, Safeguards)
 - ◇ Influence of peers
Of equal concern is the progressive eradication of positive, mature, adult influences ... Young people are parenting and shaping each other. They are in school together ... extra-curricular activities together ... online together, on social media together, gaming together, texting together. They are rarely disconnected from their peer group. [Developments in technology mean] that parents struggle more and more to have a voice in their children's lives. (Julie Lowe, Safeguards)
- What hasn't changed?
 - ◇ Our sinful hearts
 - ◇ Our broken and fallen world
- So—WE NEED TO **EQUIP** OUR CHILDREN!

Hebrews 5:14—**the mature ... those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.**

As a parent, my ultimate goal for my children is not to keep them safe (though it is a goal); rather, it is that my children would know the ways of God and walk in truth. Walking by faith and knowing good from evil will be their shield ... If we raise children who somehow have been shielded from the worst perils of this world but do not walk with the Lord, do not know right from wrong, or are unaware of the dangers that exist from within – we have failed them miserably. (Julie Lowe, Safeguards)

Proverbs 14:16—**One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless.**

2) TIMELESS TRUTH

Titus 1:2—**God, who never lies ...**

- God IS Truth
- God REVEALS Truth

3) CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S COVENANT AND GOD'S CHURCH

- Not assuming and not afraid

1 John 5:19—**We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.**

1 John 4:4—**Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**

- Confidence in God's Covenant

Deuteronomy 7:9—**Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.**