



Q&A about “Unison Parenting: The Comprehensive Guide to Navigating Christian Parenthood with One Voice”

Q: There are tons of parenting books out there. Why this book? What makes it different?

A: Aside from many proven parenting techniques that parents may not have encountered, the book has an underpinning of this concept of parenting in unison. Unison singing is when all of the voices sing the same note at the same time. That’s what we want in unison parenting: being aligned and saying the same thing to the child.

However, there are many pitfalls in parenting, many ways that you can get out of sync. Some are philosophical; some are situational. I identify the traps to parents and provide solutions for either avoiding or getting out of the traps.

Q: Why did you write *Unison Parenting*?

A: I taught parenting classes for seven hundred families in my church over fifteen years. As I taught them, answered their specific questions, and sometimes got more deeply involved in their families, I had participants telling me, “You should write a book.” So I finally did!

The book is the result of those engagements, plus my own parenting experience, plus my thirty years of church youth ministry, during which I saw the results of a wide array of parenting styles.

Q: Is this a book only for Christians? Does it apply to any parent?

A: It is primarily aimed at Christians, but it contains many treasures for any parent. I explain in the book that I am coming from a Christian context; hence, there are scripturally based meditations at the beginning of each chapter, as well as a chapter dedicated to disciple formation. I also view life from a

practical faith context, as that is the mission of Cecil Taylor Ministries, to teach Christians how to live a seven-day practical faith, applying scripture and faith to life situations.

However, a great deal of the book is just really good parenting advice for all of today's parents, building upon both experiences and research.

Q: What age group is addressed by *Unison Parenting*?

A: I would say from about age 4 to age 18, in other words, from the time a child begins to have an awareness of rules and household routines. The book is divided into two sections: fundamentals that address all ages, and a section dedicated to the unique challenges of parenting teenagers.

One challenge is transitioning the way you reward good behavior and assign consequences of bad behavior. I introduce a system, called the Choices Chart, that works well with younger children up through middle school. But by the teen years, the child needs a system that addresses their growing maturation. It's not only a challenge to transition your style for their increasing maturity and independence but to also balance styles and methods if you have younger children in your home.

Q: What are your favorite parts of the material? And your favorite quote?

A: In the first half of the book, the Proactive Parenting and Reactive Parenting sections are fundamental and help you understand the unison parenting concept. The Supportive Parenting chapter is one of the most emotional, because the reader will dig into how they were raised, how it affects their parenting today, and how their parenting is affecting their child, now and in the long term.

In the second half of the book, I enjoy, and my classes love, the Preventative Parenting chapter. I present very tactical ideas for dealing with teens, including a giant nugget of gold—how to get your teen to talk to you so much that you wish they would stop! It's a proven nugget that no parent has ever told me to have failed.

My favorite quote is a simple phrase that I repeat in various places—"For the sake of the child." Parents are going to have to suppress their desires, check their egos, accept hard truths, and do hard things, all for the sake of the child. It doesn't mean the child rules the household. It means that the parent must sacrifice something of themselves so the child will benefit.

A good example is in divorced situations, which can become very bitter. Parents must set aside their differences and work together for the sake of the child. No manipulation, just collaboration. That's a tough task, but as I share from case studies of people I know, it's also achievable.

Q: You say you always pair your books with a workbook and a video study. What are your plans for *Unison Parenting*?

A: I'm currently working on a companion workbook so that parenting partners can go deeper into considering how to implement these techniques for themselves. At this writing in February 2024, it appears the workbook will become available by the time the book is officially released to booksellers in September 2024.

The book is so comprehensive that I'll divide the material into two video studies that match the sections of all-age fundamentals and the teen years. I will develop them sequentially, with the fundamentals becoming available during 2024, and the teen years during 2025.

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