

THE
VALUES
DRIVEN
FAMILY

A PROACTIVE PLAN

FOR *Successful*

BIBLICAL PARENTING

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FOUNDERS OF THE BALANCED-FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER, INC.



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ENJOY THE JOURNEY

We have not yet arrived at our destination. In fact, the journey to family success is one that we are traveling along with you. We'll be perfectly honest—we have no platform and no professional credibility. What we have is a desire to raise our children well, and the desire to enjoy the life that God has given us as we do it.

We are average people in just about every way. We are college-educated, but don't have advanced degrees. We live in a modest home in suburbia. We drive newer cars, but not new cars. We have five children, a dog, and a couple of cats. Dad works your typical office job and Mom stays home with the children. We are active in our local church and want to do our best at this “family” thing because we love Jesus and want our children to grow up loving him, too.

Even before we had our first baby, we had talked about the importance of family to us both, and about what it would take to do it “right.” We were committed to living biblically—living by God's Word and teaching our children to do the same. Yet even when our first children were still very young, we experienced the typical frustrations. Not that we expected life to be perfect, but we *did* expect that if our hearts were right and we were doing our best, we'd experience a lot more happiness and that things would be *good*.

And therein lay the problem. Things *were* good. People said we were *good* parents. As our children grew, we received many compliments about what *good* kids we had. Marc's career was blessed and he was recognized for his work

ethic and his management skills. Everyone who came to our home felt welcome and always commented on how well kept things were. So, with all this going for us, why did we feel like there was just “something” missing?

Quite simply, we had it *good*. But we knew that there was more. God had something *better* for us; and in fact, we decided that we didn’t want to settle for anything less than God’s *best*. And that didn’t just mean being good parents.

After reading many well-selected parenting books, and taking away something positive from each one, we’ve arrived at a rather surprising conclusion: every book on our shelf focuses on our goal as parents, which is *successfully raising our children*. For us as Christians, that means, first and foremost, that our children embrace our lifestyle of faith and carry it into their adulthood. There are many ways of doing this, and we’ve read our share of the theories.

Through much of what we’ve read, however, we’ve been encouraged to measure our family success by externals. Unfortunately, with so much focus and attention applied to “symptoms” (like the behaviors of children), we’ve found insufficient emphasis given to the primary influencers of the household—the parents. An unfortunate outcome is that parenting becomes not only child-centric, but disjointed from the rest of life.

The Values-Driven Family was written to provide a different perspective on parenting—one that can make life simpler, not more complicated. You will notice as you read this book that the focus is more on you, as parents, than on your children. That’s because you, as parents, are the driving force of your family. If you want your children to mature into responsible and loving adults, you must be one yourself. *You* need to be committed to living out any of the character traits you wish to see your children express.

Another difference between this book and many other resources is that we don’t just want to emphasize the goal of parenting, which is successfully raising our children. When this is the case, we’re either explicitly or implicitly encouraged

