

- Sin makes us all more natural owners than ambassadors
- Sin makes us all more demanding than patient
- Sin causes all of us to find punishment more natural than grace
- Sin makes all of us more able to see and be distressed by the sin, weakness, and failure of others than we are about our own
- Sin makes it easier for us to talk at other people rather than listening to them

The thing that constantly gets in the way of our ambassadorial calling: US

IDENTITY: Where you look to find your sense of who you are

Owner:

- Owner parents tend to look to get their identity, meaning, purpose, and inner sense of well-being from their children.
- Tend to take their children's failures personally, as if they were done against them intentionally, and respond to their children with personal hurt and anger.
- Reality: God simply does not give you children in order for you to feel that your life is worthwhile.

Ambassador:

- Come to parenting with a deep sense of identity and are motivated by meaning and purpose.
- They don't get this meaning and purpose from their children because they have gotten it from the One whom they represent: the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Because they are freed from coming to their children hoping to get they are now free to forget themselves and parent with the selflessness and sacrifice that ambassadorial parenting requires

WORK: What you define as the work you have been called to do.

Owner:

- Think their job is to turn their children into something.
- Form their children into what they have conceived that they should be

Ambassador:

- Know their daily work is not to turn their children into anything
- They have come to understand that they have no power to change their children and that without God's wisdom they wouldn't even know what is best for their children
- Not motivated by a vision of what they want their children to be, but by the potential of what grace could cause their children to be

SUCCESS: What you define success to be

Owner:

- Tend to be working toward a specific catalog of indicators in the lives of their children that would tell them that they have been successful parents. (ie academic, athletic, music, social likability) These are not unimportant, but they are unable to measure successful parenting.
- Good parents don't always produce good kids, and parent should constantly be asking themselves where they get the set of values that tell them whether they have "good" kids or not. Many good parents live with long-term feelings of failure because their children have not turned out the way they hoped

Ambassador:

- Have faced the scary truth that they have no power at all to produce anything in their children.
- They haven't attached their definition of successful parenting to horizontal outcomes
- Successful parenting is not about achieving goals (that you have no power to produce) but about being a usable and faithful tool in the hands of the One who alone is able to produce good things IN your children

REPUTATION: What tells people who you are and what you're about

Owner:

- Turn their children into their trophies to parade in public to the applause of the people around them (what about the awkward phases)
- Tend to be angry and disappointed with their children, not first because they've broken God's law, but because whatever they have done has brought hassle and embarrassment to them.

Ambassador:

- Come to understand that parenting sinners will expose them to public misunderstanding and embarrassment somehow, someday.
- For them, it's God who does the work and God who gets the glory; they are just gratified that they were able to be the tools that God used.

Are you ready to be free from the burden of trying to create change, and to experience the rest to be found in functioning as a tool of the One whose grace alone has the power to change?