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with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

## Is Gentle Parenting Crippling the Next Generation?

(August 6, 2024)

**FRANK:**

Ladies and gentlemen, if you're a parent, a grandparent, or a child, gee, that's everyone. This podcast is going to be for you because we're talking to my friend Brett Kunkle of MavenTruth.com, and he and his wife Erin do a lot of ministry on parenting.

And for some reason, there are many Christian parents out there that instead of following the biblical commands on parenting or the biblical advice on parenting, they seem to be using secular parenting techniques and it's creating trouble. Brett, welcome to I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist, brother. How are you?

**BRETT:**

Frank, anytime I'm on this show, it's a good day.

**FRANK:**

It's a good day. That's right. We happen to be at the CrossExamined Instructor Academy right now. Brett, you've been doing this with me for now 17 years.

**BRETT:**

Has it been that? This is 17 years?

**FRANK:**

This is year 17?

**BRETT:**

That's amazing.

**FRANK:**

I know.

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**BRETT:**

It's amazing what this program has produced over 17 years, to see all the fruit that's come out of this to get people in the field, in play. The impact is probably unimaginable for us right now.

**FRANK:**

Yeah, we hope it is. We've been doing it since 2008. This is where we try and train people to present the evidence for Christianity and to be able to answer the toughest objections. And Brett, you started with me, and I think it was Greg Koukl, and maybe two other instructors back in 2008. And now in year 17, we've got people like Alisa Childers, Natasha Crain, Bobby Conway, Richard Howe, of course, Greg Koukl, and Allen Parr now, and several others helping us train folks. We do this once a year, ladies and gentlemen.

The next year will be again in August of 2025. Probably will be in Sarasota, Florida, although that has not been confirmed yet. But let's talk a little bit about parenting. In fact, you were just up at a camp that I was just presenting at as well, called Camp of the Woods up there in Upstate New York. A great place to go, Christian camp. What were you doing up there with Erin and the family, and what were you presenting?

**BRETT:**

Yeah, so Kate, the director up there of discipleship, she said, our Christian parents need help. And so, Erin and I went up and we did four days of talks and then a Friday Q & A. But we hit on culture and how culture impacts our kids and our parenting. We hit on just a practical plan, and then we also hit on how to make your kids, or not letting... How did we title it?

Making your kids struggle or helping your kids to struggle and not protecting them from struggle. And then we also hit on discipline, how to effectively discipline our kids. So, those were the topics that we hit at the Camp of the Woods.

**FRANK:**

Let's start with discipline for a second. There's something out there called the gentle parenting movement. First of all, what is it? And then secondly, is it biblical?

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**BRETT:**

Well, okay, so it's like everything. When you ask what it is and you give a definition, someone out there is going to say, no, that's not it. That's not it. Okay? So, I recognize that. But gentle parenting wants to, there's multiple kind of aspects to it. But what it wants to do, and it sounds great. I mean, who, what parent out there doesn't want to be a gentle parent? Right?

And so, what it does is it takes something like punishment, and it sets it aside and says, hey, we're not going to use punishment, generally speaking, or we're not going to use certain kinds of punishment. And instead, what we're going to do is we're really going to try to find out where are the kids at? We're going to try to appeal to kind of their emotions. We're going to get down at their level and try to talk through things.

And now, it's a mixed bag. There are some things where, hey, the response, rather than frustration, the response is a gentle answer. Hey, that's good. That's good advice. Right? But I think the problem with it is it doesn't take a fallen human nature seriously that we have these fallen children. And it also doesn't take, I think it's kind of rooted in a secular worldview that also doesn't have a biblical end in mind.

And so, take something like discipline. What is the purpose of our discipline? Right? So, gentle parenting will say, hey, it's not merely behavior modification. And I would agree, discipline isn't just behavior modification. In a Christian worldview, discipline is for the purpose of training in righteousness. That's what we want to do through discipline. It's not just, hey, I want to modify my kid's behavior. I want to get them to obey me because I don't want to deal with the mess, or I don't want to deal with their disobedience, or I don't want to deal with a rebellion.

And this is where we got to step back and I think whether it's gentle parenting or any other idea out there, the first thing that Christian parents and the Christian church needs to do is we need to ask what is the Christian view of these things? So, whether it's discipline, or education, or social media and technology. We've got to step back, and we've got to look at these things from the Christian worldview.

That right there is going to help us then to assess these parenting trends, things like gentle parenting. It's going to help us to evaluate those and see, okay, does this match up with a

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biblical picture of human beings, our anthropology? I think with gentle parenting, you've got some truth in there. But then it doesn't take seriously the fallen nature of human beings. And so, therefore, when you watch some of the Instagram influencers or social media influencers on this movement and you see kind of their videos and how they're talking to kids, or they present scenarios that are supposed to work.

And as a parent, I think a lot of parents sit there and they listen to it and they go, gosh, well, first off, my parenting doesn't look like that. I wish it did. I wish I could just, when my kid is throwing a fit, I wish I could just get down on their level, talk to them about their big emotions, and then that would just solve everything. I think a lot of parents go, wait a second. Are you working with real kids? Because if you're working with real kids, I mean, more than half the stuff that you hear from the gentle parenting crowd, you're like, that doesn't work.

Yeah. If our kids came out of the womb with no fallen nature, right, they didn't have sin infecting their lives at every point, well, then maybe some of that would work, if they were basically good. And so, I think that is where we see the gentle parenting movement mislead us. So, you've got to... If discipline is training in righteousness and in a Christian view, we have these fallen little creatures, well, that's going to inform what we need to do. And we look at Scripture on discipline, and the purpose of discipline. Discipline is training.

So, it's not just punishment, it's training. Punishment might be a subcategory of that, but includes our teaching. And so, our instruction is part of the discipline. So, explaining moral rules and that kind of thing. But ultimately, the purpose is to train the will, train the fallen human will, to live in obedience, ultimately to God. And so, if you want to look for a model, don't look to the gentle parenting influencer. Look to God. Look to the Scriptures for a model of discipline.

And Hebrews talks about how God disciplines, and He does it out of love. And that that training doesn't feel good at the moment, you know? And so, you look at Scripture and you see the way that God trains us as human beings is there are punishments. Right? Because punishment helps communicate the seriousness of the offense. And in the same way, when we punish our kids, it communicates the seriousness of the offense, and it also helps in training their will.

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**FRANK:**

So, let's think of a scenario. Four year old Johnny takes a wiffle bat and smacks his two year old brother over the head with it. Is the gentle parenting approach to say, now, Johnny, was that a good choice? And that's it? You're going to reason with a four year old? I mean, you need to. But is that it? No punishment?

**BRETT:**

Well, it'll depend on who you talk to. But yeah. The first impulse is not to punish it's to maybe remove the bat first, but then it's to get down and to talk to Johnny about why he did what he did and what feelings did... You know, what are the big feelings that he's experiencing that caused him to do such a thing? And then to try to redirect.

And so, yeah, the idea of punishment doesn't fit with kind of a view of gentle parenting that... It seems what undergirds it is an idea that kids are basically good, and we've just got to provide the right kind of environment.

**FRANK:**

Oh, I see. So, if we just are real reasonable with him, he'll see the value of reason and he won't do it again and realize how wrong he was.

**BRETT:**

Yeah, well, yeah, that's the idea.

**FRANK:**

He's inherently good, he just needs to be informed.

**BRETT:**

Well, and also part of this, I think you're absolutely right. And also, part of this is it's turning inward. What is going on inside the kid? Because in gentle parenting, that's the most important thing. What the kid is experiencing, what their feelings are, how they view this perspective.

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**FRANK:**

How does Billy, who just had his head smacked open by Johnny's wiffle bat, how does he feel about this, do you think?

**BRETT:**

Yeah. Well, and that's where, you know, when you have moments where, or you have this approach that really is kid centered, it ends up, I think, in the long run, it gets kids not to think about the other one, Bobby or whoever the other kid is. You just smack. It doesn't matter, really, what they feel, because really what's important...

And this is really, it seems like this is consistent with the expressive individualism of the culture that Carl Trueman talks about. Right? Is that the primary authority is my feelings, and my desires, and then I express those, and then I expect everyone to affirm me. And I think much of what you see in the gentle parenting trend fits right with that view.

And so, yeah, that's not the big issue, what happened to the other kid. It's all right, what's going on in you so that you might not do that again? And there's certainly an admission that that was not a good thing.

**FRANK:**

Right.

**BRETT:**

Right. But there's not, there's not a healthy view of punishment and how punishment is important and necessary for the training of our kids.

**FRANK:**

Now, in our society, reading a Proverb about parenting that talks about the rod almost seems barbaric in our society, right? So, here's Proverbs 13:24. Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them. So, we have a four year old who just whacked his brother in the head with a wiffle bat. Are we going to spare the rod, or are we going to just sit, get at his eye-level and say, now, Johnny, was that a good choice?

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What are we going to do? What should we do? And I think part of the problem is people think if you use corporal punishment, somehow, you're an abuser. You can be an abuser if you go too far. But is there an appropriate instance when corporal punishment helps the child rather than hurts?

**BRETT:**

Yeah, absolutely. This is where we need to think long term, I think. What is the desired outcome? And this is where in parenting, you want to start with the question, what is the end goal? And this is that business principle, begin with the end in mind. And so, yeah, having a severe punishment, a corporal punishment, a spanking for that four year old who's done something out of disobedience and rebellion is appropriate not just for that moment, but for their training for the future, because it helps them to see.

And some people who would say, oh, this is a severe kind of punishment, we'd say, yeah, actually, the severity is instructive for the kid to see the severity of their actions. And you, you know, at four years old, it might be the wiffle ball bat, but the kid who doesn't have training in righteousness when he's a teenager and is a lot stronger, it's a real bat.

Or it's, you know, taking another kid and pounding their head against the concrete, which we actually saw. You know, I mean, we see viral videos of out of control teenagers now who are now stronger, and bigger, and can actually do some real damage. And so, if those lessons aren't learned early on, then the will isn't trained, and then there's going to be much bigger consequences down the road.

I think the other thing that punishment does is a kid who gets a spanking or gets a severe punishment, what they learn is that they can live through that, and they won't die. And that's an important lesson because life is going to be filled with those kinds of lessons, that you go through hard things.

In fact, this is, I think, you know, in our discipline, we're also kind of giving our kids through those experiences, a theology of suffering, a theology of pain, because life's going to be filled with those things, and you can actually still go through those things and survive and be okay.

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**FRANK:**

There are negative consequences of following your heart. There are negative consequences of just doing whatever impulse, you know, comes to you, and that is to smack your brother in the head with a wiffle bat. It was on my heart. I wanted to do it, right? He annoyed me. You just... You have to train the child in the way he should go if the kid's going to turn out well. And parents, you are not... Your goal is not to bring up good kids. Your goal is to bring up good adults. That's your goal.

**BRETT:**

Yeah. And so, if we, you know, if you've got the long term picture in view, that's going to help you in the moment. That's going to help you. Look, I mean, I never, ever enjoyed spanking my kids, but I did so out of my love for them because I had this picture in the future of what kind of person I wanted them to be, of the virtue I wanted them to develop.

And when you are able to train a child's will in the earlier stages, you can set them on a trajectory where, in a lot of ways, it can get easier as they get older because they've developed now habits, discipline, virtue, character, that will serve them well for the rest of their lives.

**FRANK:**

That's right. And that's why it's so important, ladies and gentlemen, to follow what the Bible says, not what Dr. Spock says. He was the old parenting guy in my generation.

**BRETT:**

There are a million of them on social media now.

**FRANK:**

Or not what gentle parenting says. But as you said, Brett, there is truth in what they're saying. Otherwise, nobody would believe any of it. The problem is they have the wrong view of human nature, and we see that everywhere. It's not just in parenting, it's in economics. People think socialism works because they have the wrong view of human nature. It doesn't work. It can't work.

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When was the last time you washed a rental car? Never. Because it's not yours. If you don't have ownership, you're not going to care about it. You need ownership to motivate people in order to produce what you want them to produce, what they want to produce.

**BRETT:**

Even take that insight about ownership. Now, of course, when it comes to parenting, we don't call it ownership in that kind of sense of private property, but there is an ownership that parents have that nobody else in the culture has when it comes to their kids. And this ought to inform our view of parental rights. Who are the people who are most invested in a child? It is parents. It is that mom and that dad.

And so, therefore, they are, generally speaking, going to be the ones that are in the best position and the most motivated to do right by those kids. And so, anything that infringes on parental rights, we ought to resist.

So, when the state of California comes in and says, hey, we are going to ban educators from informing parents about any LGBTQ+ issues when it comes to their kids, we're going to make it illegal for educators and administrators to say anything to parents, to reveal any of that to parents. And you've got this infringement now on parental rights. That's the kind of stuff that we've got to battle. That stuff's not consistent with a Christian worldview.

**FRANK:**

Isn't it amazing that the state of California treats every parent as if they are the enemy and now the state is the parent of the child? They're assuming that if they find just one parent who mistreats some kid who's going through a tough time with their gender, that therefore all kids in California, or all parents in California are now somehow guilty of abuse.

And so, now the state needs to step in and mandate that now they are the parents. They know best. This is madness and Christians need to speak up about this. In fact, reasonable people need to speak up about this. Are there any reasonable people in the California government? I mean, what is going on out there?

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**BRETT:**

Oh, I don't want to talk about that, Frank. That's a depressing subject.

**FRANK:**

So depressing. And there are more Christians in California than any other state. They're just outnumbered by psychos out there.

**BRETT:**

Yeah, well, there are pockets here and there, but we're just at a state level, we're dominated by a certain political view. And they just have the numbers where they can push kind of whatever legislation through. And this is where, again, step back. Parents have to step back and go, okay, what are the worldview ideas that are animating these kinds of things? That's the level we've got to think about as parents, and we've got to think about that when it comes to every single issue, when it comes to raising our kids. I mean, I think about, you know, the modern coddling of American children.

**FRANK:**

Yeah, talk about coddling. Because I think, again, it's a misunderstanding of human nature to think that the way forward is to coddle people. I think we make them victims, and entitled, and shallow people when we don't allow them to go through difficulty. And we're going to do everything we can to prevent any sort of suffering in their lives.

**BRETT:**

Yeah, well, this is, you know, you have, I think a lot of times what we do is we simply, we're baking or kind of soaking in the culture. So, we end up absorbing ideas, and values, and behaviors from the culture. And so, everyone around us now, we're coddling the kids. We have this, I think we've absorbed a view from the culture that the good life turns out to be a life of pleasure, primarily.

And if life is pleasurable and the goal of life is pleasure, then what I need to do when it comes to my kids is I need to protect them from any discomfort or pain, anything that would oppose or contradict their pleasure. And so, parents may not say that. I think often we've just absorbed that. And so, we go around trying to remove any kind of obstacles for our kids.

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And not only that, not only do we try to remove any barrier or obstacles so that it's not hard for them, but then what we end up doing is we also, in addition, do everything for them. And so, I mean, let's get really practical here. We see this all the time at sports events. So, we've had our kids in swimming, and football, and basketball, and all kinds of things.

And what you notice is that when kids show up at practice or at a game, who's carrying their stuff? It's the parents. And you look around and you're like, oh, every, all these parents are carrying their kids' stuff for them. And we operate differently in our family. It's like, hey, this is your stuff. We want you to learn how to take ownership for it and want you to carry your own stuff, want you to be responsible for your own stuff.

Plus, we don't want you to push off tasks on other people that you should be doing for yourself. And so, we look around like all these parents are. We were at a swim meet where we saw that with swim practice. As soon as kids get out of the water, parents putting towels on them, but then they get all their stuff, and they carry all their stuff for the kids.

We were at a swim meet where there was a mom in between, her son was sitting there, and in between his heats, he was on an iPad playing a video game, and the mom is feeding him a banana. So, she's putting the banana to his mouth. He'll turn, take a bite, and then he's back on the game. I mean, this is what you see all over the place. And again, it doesn't fit with a biblical picture that, hey, there are going to be trials, there are going to be struggles. It doesn't fit with the biblical picture of, hey, you have to work for yourself.

In fact, Paul talks about, hey, you don't work, you don't eat kind of thing. Proverbs is filled with all kinds of instruction on working, all kinds of warnings against sloth and laziness. Right? And so, all of that should inform our parenting, even at that level. And again, thinking about when we coddle our kids, in fact, Jonathan Haidt wrote a new book that came out at the end of March called 'The Anxious Generation.'

**FRANK:**

That's right.

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**BRETT:**

And he says, look, when it comes to Gen Z's, I mean, we've got a mental health crisis unlike any other generation.

**FRANK:**

Give us Gen Z. That's what age? Twelve to 27, something like that?

**BRETT:**

Something like that. That's kind of the range. And you've got this incredible mental health crisis where they are struggling with anxiety, depression, suicide, self-harm. I mean, you can look at it at all these different levels. And he argues in that book, there's two main causes. Number one is that we have under protected in the virtual world. So, this is the whole social media stuff that he talks about. But the second thing he says is we have overprotected in the real world, and so we no longer send our kids outside to play.

We coddle them, is really his argument. And he talks about in his earlier book, 'The Coddling of the American Mind', this view called kind of safetyism, that's kind of the default view of American parents now. And so, we don't let them struggle. We don't want them to struggle on any level. And now we're seeing the fruits of it. I mean, we're seeing the fruits on all levels. Think about intellectually right now, the college campus is supposed to be a safe place. We coddle them intellectually.

**FRANK:**

They can't hear an opposing viewpoint.

**BRETT:**

Yeah.

**FRANK:**

They'll be sent to the emergency room. [Laughter]

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**BRETT:**

Exactly. So, this is just playing out. And I've been trying to think more about how to articulate this, because it's everywhere. It's ubiquitous. So, it's almost like we don't even realize it. We don't even recognize it. And so, all the stuff, this craziness that's going on, on the college campus with safe spaces and the infringement on free speech, and not hearing opposing views, and certain ideas, just being kind of shut out, that's all part of the coddling of American kids on an intellectual level. And it starts when they're young, when we protect them.

And gosh, you talk to teachers. In fact, if you want to do some of your own personal research out there, go talk to teachers. Go talk to college professors and ask them about the kids now that they're having to deal with. And I mean, I've talked to college professors who say, hey, when a kid doesn't turn in their homework or they've got an excuse, they have had moms and dads call in to the college professor to try and get their kid, you know, out of that, excused out of that assignment.

**FRANK:**

It's amazing. Ladies and gentlemen, if you go to [Crossexamined.org](http://Crossexamined.org) and look at the blog, Scott Thor, who works on some of our online courses, and before I tell you what he just wrote, this is probably the last week to sign up for the course with Scott Klusendorf, 'How to Convince People to Be Pro-life', especially important in this political season. Go to [Crossexamined.org](http://Crossexamined.org). Click on online courses. You will see it there. It's the best course on the internet on how to convince people to be pro-life. And you should want to do that because you're saving lives when you do so.

Anyway, Scott Thor has quite a long summary of the book that my guest today, Brett Kunkle, just mentioned. And the summary is called, excuse me, 'The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness.' So, if you can't get or you don't want to read all of Jonathan Haidt's book, by the way, Jonathan Haidt is an atheist, a professor at NYU. He's put out a great book, though, on this topic. Just go to our website, [Crossexamined.org](http://Crossexamined.org). Click on the blog. This article is up as of July 23 by Scott Thor.

And he does a great job of summarizing some of the findings from that particular book. Now, Brett, let's go back to coddling for a second. My kids are in their thirties now, but when, you

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know, they were below ten or when they were in our home, say, from five years old on up to when they were teenagers. We got them involved in sports, but one thing we did not allow them to do is we did not allow them to be the center of our lives.

In other words, that we were just their chauffeurs, that we were going to take them wherever they wanted to go, no matter how far away. Oh, I'm on a traveling team, dad. No, you're not. Okay? You'll be on the local team. All right? And we would ensure that they weren't. I mean, we loved them, obviously, but we didn't want to put them on a pedestal and say, whatever you want to do, we're going to be there and we're going to support no matter what you want to do. What are your thoughts on that?

**BRETT:**

That is a big issue because I think modern American life has organized things in such a way that the normal American teenager, all of life is designed in a way that just caters to them. And I think it just has produced a generation of really selfish kids, narcissistic kids. And it's a struggle because it's just, it's kind of in the system of American living right now.

And so, whether it's coddling them at younger ages, but you think when they're teenagers, there's... And this is, I think, kind of related to this is the over busyness of families where now our kids, if they're going to be successful, they've got to do well in school. And school requires such an incredible amount of time from them, right?

So, they're there from eight to two, eight to three. Then you throw sports on that, and then they got their sports practices. Then you throw any other extracurricular activities on that. Then you add to a technology and social media, right? And so much of life for a lot of parents ends up being catering to their kids, and what their kids are doing, and their kid's activities. And I remember with our, you know, with our oldest daughter who was in, she was in the public system for a little bit, and she was in sports.

But I remember, you know, like, getting her to do some chores at home was tough. And it wasn't even, it didn't have to do with her attitude or, you know, her ability to do it. It had to do with the amount of time that was spent on all of her other activities. It's like she's at school, she's in sports, and all of these activities are for you know, kind of centered around her.

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And then when it's like, hey, when it... You know, we think chores is a valuable part of every family because it's you now contributing not just to your own well-being, but to the well-being of this group of individuals, this family.

And so, you've got, you know, through that, you help kids learn that, hey, I've got obligations to other people. I may not have made that bathroom dirty, but I still clean it, because that is part of my contribution to the overall well-being of this family. Well, something like chores gets pushed out because it's like, I don't have any time to do this. As soon as I come home, I've got homework, and then I got to go back to practice.

**FRANK:**

Yeah. Sports and video games, right?

**BRETT:**

Yeah.

**FRANK:**

Well, my wife had a brilliant idea with the chores. She made a grid. We had three sons. She made a grid and put all the chores on one axis and their names on the other. And dependent upon what week it was, you would have either the garbage, the dishes, the vacuuming, the laundry. And so, it would change every week, you know? Okay, Zack, you know, you got the dishes this week. Spencer has the garbage. You know, Austin has the vacuuming. And so, the next week, it would change. There was no arguments. You looked at the grid and said that's what you were doing that week.

**BRETT:**

Yeah. And if you didn't do it, there were disincentives or incentives. Right? There were punishments. There were appropriate consequences.

**FRANK:**

They had one hour of video games a day, and they would lose that. You know, that was in the day even prior to cell phones. They didn't have cell phones, and I wouldn't give my kid a cell phone now, as Jonathan Haidt points out. Again, an atheist. He's just pointing out the truth.

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That book, 'The Anxious Generation', you can get it, or you can go to our website [Crossexamined.org](http://Crossexamined.org), and look at the July 23 article about it. We tried to make sure that we sheltered them from the worst that was on the internet, and they didn't get too addicted to electronics.

**BRETT:**

Yeah. And frankly, the word shelter, it kind of has, I think, a negative connotation. But if there's a storm, shelter is a really good thing.

**FRANK:**

That's right. Yeah.

**BRETT:**

I actually think in this day and age, with a very aggressive secular culture that is just importing its values right into our families, that we need to do a lot more sheltering, especially at those earlier ages. Now, the sheltering or the protection is a short term goal. That's not the long term goal, because none of us can protect our kids for the rest of their lives, but we want to shelter and protect in order to be able to do something else.

And that is equip, and train, and pass on a Christian truth and the Christian worldview to our kids so that, and here's the long term goal. We can send them back out into the culture to be salt and light. But we have got to do more, I think sheltering. And this is where, again, thinking about what's the end in mind.

In fact, think about it from a big picture. What kind of kid do you want to produce and send out into the world? What's our primary goal? What's the most important thing?

**FRANK:**

To know God and make Him known.

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**BRETT:**

Exactly. Exactly. And we might say that, but the question is, all right, let's go back and evaluate everything we do, what our priorities are, and say, okay, is what I'm doing going to produce that? Is what I'm doing...?

So, take education. So, that means education is not just about my kid going to school, being successful, getting the good grades so they can go to the right college, so then they can go get the degree or the multiple degrees that they need to then have a successful career. I mean, that's all good stuff. And we wouldn't say there's anything wrong with that, but that's not the end goal of education from a biblical view.

The end goal of education is to know God and make Him known. It's to, and here's the way we kind of put it in our home. You've got two commandments, and you got two commissions, right? Two commandments. Love God, love neighbor. Two commissions, the Great Commission and the cultural commission. And that right there is what we want to produce. Kids who love God and love neighbor first. Those are the two most important things.

**FRANK:**

And love doesn't mean approval.

**BRETT:**

Exactly. A biblical view of love. And so, just pause there. Is what I'm doing, if I'm coddling my kids, if I'm catering to all of their needs...

**FRANK:**

All their wants.

**BRETT:**

Yeah, I'm sorry. All their wants, all their desires, and life is kind of catering to them, and they're kind of the center of the universe. Is that going to produce people who love God and then love neighbor? Absolutely not. And so, I think we, in the apologetics world, we want to apply good Christian thinking to all of these issues.

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And in the same way, when it comes to the raising of the next generation, the discipleship of the next generation, we have got to do the same thing, apply good Christian thinking, biblical thinking, and apply it to our parenting. And I think when we do that, we're going to see that a lot of parenting trends and advice right now in the culture do not align with a biblical view.

And so, we're going to have to rethink things. Like, we need to rethink education big time, because we are sending a lot of our kids into secular environments where they're getting a worldview. They're getting a secular worldview that is, you know, that is undermining their faith. And it oftentimes it's being sown at young ages. We might not see the results when they're in third, and fourth, and fifth grade.

So, we don't think necessarily anything's wrong. It's not usually until maybe high school, definitely college, where we will reap what we've sown. And if we've sown a secular education, a secular worldview, we're going to reap kids who walk away from the faith. And so, we've got to rethink how we parent, how we educate, ultimately, how we disciple the next generation.

**FRANK:**

If people want to go further, Brett, and learn more about this from you, and Erin, and your ministry, where do they go?

**BRETT:**

I'd say first place to start is our website, [Maventruth.com](http://Maventruth.com), because there you can get in touch with all our resources. And one of the biggest resources that we're putting out right now is the Maven Parent Podcast.

**FRANK:**

Maven Parent Podcast.

**BRETT:**

Maven Parent Podcast. We are trying to take a biblical view and then apply it to every aspect of parenting to help coach parents through this cultural moment. And so, it's dealing with all the big issues that are out there, like, you know, gender identity and technology. But we also try to

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take biblical views and apply it to the most practical things, like, what do you do with a three year old who's a picky eater? Is there a biblical view of food? Absolutely.

There's a theology of food. Everything from that, to coddling, to cultural moments, and making your kids do hard things. All of it. And just how does a biblical view inform our parenting? So, I'd say Maven Parent Podcast would be a great resource on that.

**FRANK:**

Maven Parent Podcast, Maventruth.com. You also have an event coming up in September in the Dallas area. What's that about?

**BRETT:**

Yeah, so our Maven conference in Texas, Dallas Fort Worth area is for students and adults. We want to take, this year's theme is illuminate. And we want to take Scripture, which is the basis of our worldview. We want to take the Scripture, and we want to build its authority because I think a lot of, particularly young people, but adults as well, we've lost a healthy view of authority. Part of that is because authorities have let us down. We've got every institution, politicians, education, media.

And so, we then bring the skepticism of authority, and we combine it within this expressive individualism that says, well, I'm really the authority. And it just undermines our view of the authority of scripture and therefore how we live our lives in submission to Scripture. So, that's really the theme of our conference. We've got our friend, J. Warner Wallace, is going to be there. Kathy Cook is a fantastic mind on raising the next generation.

But we're going to cover how do you build the authority of Scripture? And then we're going to show how Scripture speaks to the pressing issues of life, like gender, ideology. And we've got different tracks. We've got a parenting track. We've got an apologetics track. We've got a culture track. If you are an adult, get there and bring your students as well.

**FRANK:**

MavenTruth.com will have all the details, ladies and gentlemen. Also check out the Maven Parenting Podcast. And if you want to have Brett and/or Erin come to speak at your church, or

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your school, or wherever you are, you can also go to [MavenTruth.com](http://MavenTruth.com) and check it out there. So, Brett, as always, thanks for the wisdom. This is a very important topic, parenting. It's the next generation. So, thanks for being a part of this.

**BRETT:**

Anytime.

**FRANK:**

All right, that's Brett Kunkle, ladies and gentlemen. [MavenTruth.com](http://MavenTruth.com). Go there for a wealth of insights on not just parenting, but apologetics and other issues. The cultural commission, and the Great Commission, as Brett said, is all advanced on that website. And Lord willing, I will see you here. Oh, I've got to tell you, I'll be out in California this coming weekend. Don't forget. I'll be at the Calvary chapel, San Jose on the 10th, and I'll be at South Valley Community Church on the 11th of August. All right, we'll see you here next week. God bless.

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