

The Prodigal Parent

“I have **no greater joy** than this, to hear of
my children **walking in the truth**”

3 John 4

Presented by:
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AGE	SEASON	GOAL	<i>TRAINING</i> OUTCOME
0 – 2 years	<i>GIVING</i>	Secured Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing routines • Ensuring safety precautions
3 – 12 years	<i>LEADERSHIP</i>	Self-Governing Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing authority • Defining boundaries • Parent-centered family • Discipline with purpose • Development of conscience • Development of work ethics
13 – 18/21 years	<i>MENTORING</i>	Responsible Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social pressures (peers, trends, etc) • Reliable value compass • Identity and purpose • Moral decisions
21 years on	<i>FRIENDSHIP</i>	Matured Adult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career clarity • Responsible citizen • Good character • Contributor vs consumer

EMANCIPATION (ADULTNESS)

In the 17th century, males were full emancipated by age **18 years old.**

In the 1970s, the average age of male emancipation is **21 years old.**

Recently, the average age of male emancipation is **27 years old.**

Prodigal Practice #1

I will be willing to adjust the “season” of my life to the greater calling of developing a mature, emancipated adult.

Locate your heart

“What is in control?”

Understand the dynamics

“What’s going on inside?”

The Prodigal Parent

Resolve the anger

“How can we connect?”

Train for leadership

“How can we inspire?”

Locate your heart

(what controls my heart will control my parenting)

- I seek **Comfort**, ease, regularity, peace, space, quiet and harmony.
- I seek **Appreciation**, gratefulness, encouragement and thankfulness.
- I seek **Respect**, compliance, apply consequences, control.
- I seek **Success**, achievement, my expectations and high excellence.

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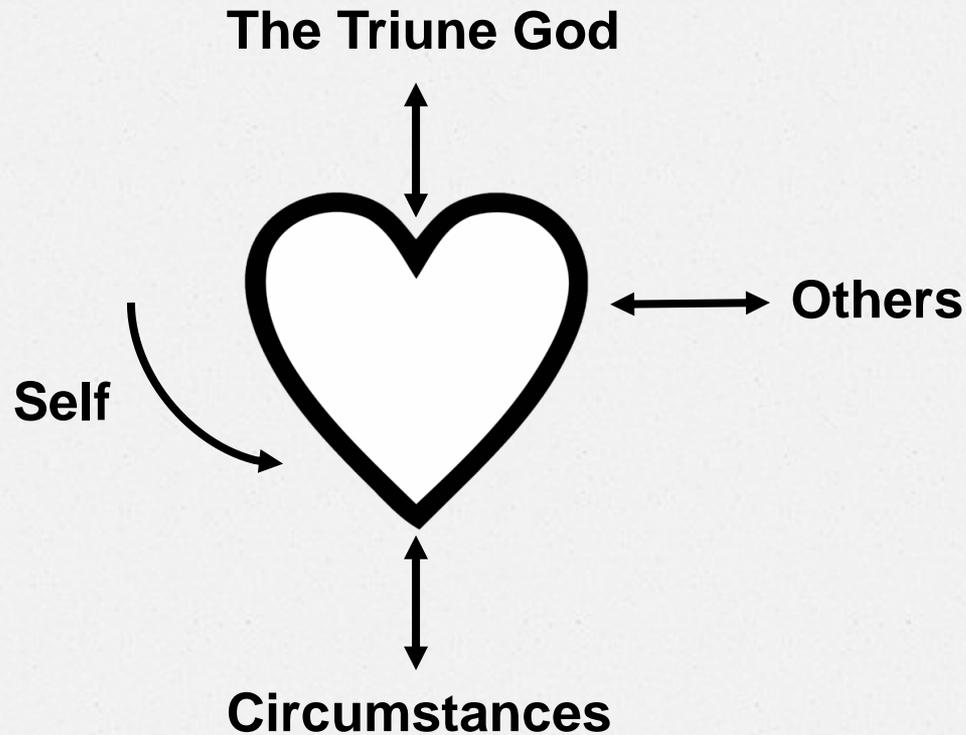
- *Age of Opportunity*, Paul Tripp

Prodigal Practice #2

I begin the task of parenting not with a lecture,
but with confession.

Understand the Dynamics

(parent not from the context of my world, but the other)



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The world becomes a strange, mad, painful place, and life in it a disappointing and unpleasant business, for those who do not know God. Disregard the study of God, and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through life blindfold, as it were, with no sense of direction, and no understanding of what surrounds you. **This way you can waste your life and lose your soul.**

- J.I. Packer

Basically, teens think of God as a creator who watches over the world, wanting people to be nice to one another and to be happy, with no particular need to be involved in a person's life except to offer help in time of need ... **Such a softly-conceived being requires no submission.**

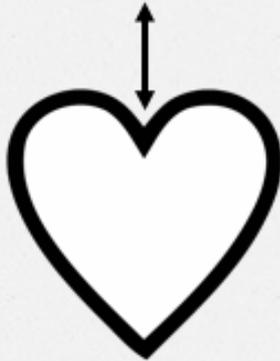
- Jeremy Pierre

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Understand the Dynamics

(parent not from the context of my world, but the other)

The Triune God



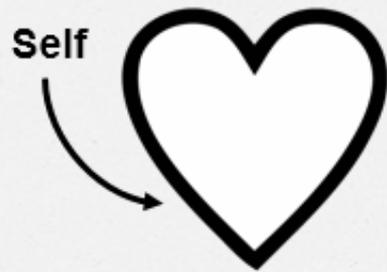
- What were my own misconceptions about God when younger and how did it affect the way I think and behave?
- From my teen's attitude and behavior, would there be a context of how she perceives who God is and His character?
- How have I been doing as a parent in terms of communicating the right view of the Triune God to my teen?

Prodigal Practice #3

I am parenting a worshipper, so it is important to remember that what rules her heart will control her behavior.

Understand the Dynamics

(parent not from the context of my world, but the other)



❑ **Constructed Identity** vs Given Identity.

❖ **Source** – *What voices are serving as building material for this identity? Is the source reliable?*

❖ **Standards** – *What standards are used to measure oneself? How is it being prioritized?*

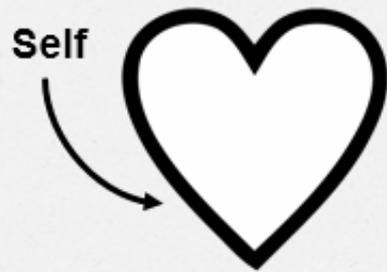
❖ **Service** – *What is the end goal – permanent or temporal – precious for my own glory or God's?*

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- *The Dynamic Heart in Daily Life*, Jeremy Pierre

Understand the Dynamics

(parent not from the context of my world, but the other)



- ❑ Constructed Identity vs Given Identity.
- ❖ **I am created**, and therefore both eternally valuable and inescapably dependent.
- ❖ **I am fallen**, and therefore both bad and broken.
- ❖ **I am redeemed**, and therefore forgiven and loved.
- ❖ **I am newly created**, and therefore both cleansed and waiting.

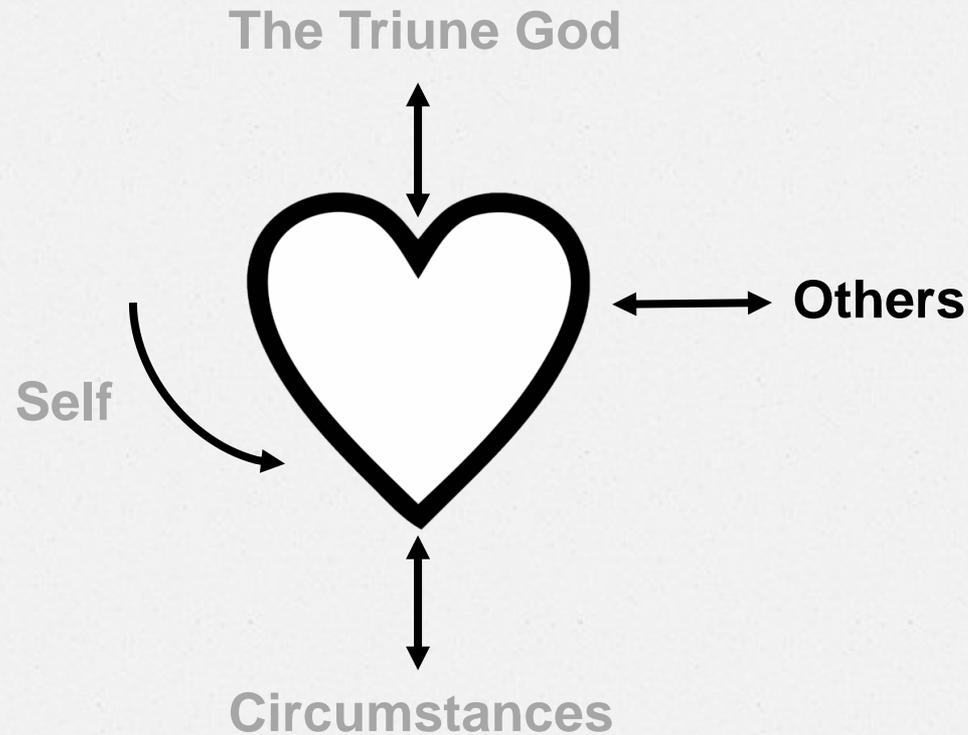
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Prodigal Practice #4

I am involved to provide the right building blocks for the formation of a God-given identity.

Understand the Dynamics

(parent not from the context of my world, but the other)



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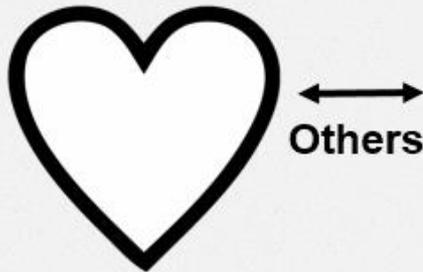
You are the average of the five people
you spend the most time with.

- Jim Rohn

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Understand the Dynamics

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❑ Orbit of relationships shaping the heart.

❖ **Culture** – *Ethnic background, community, nationality, associations.*

❖ **Media** – *Various channels competes for the power to ascribe worth.*

❖ **Friendships** – *The web of social relationships people find themselves in will shape what they want from life.*

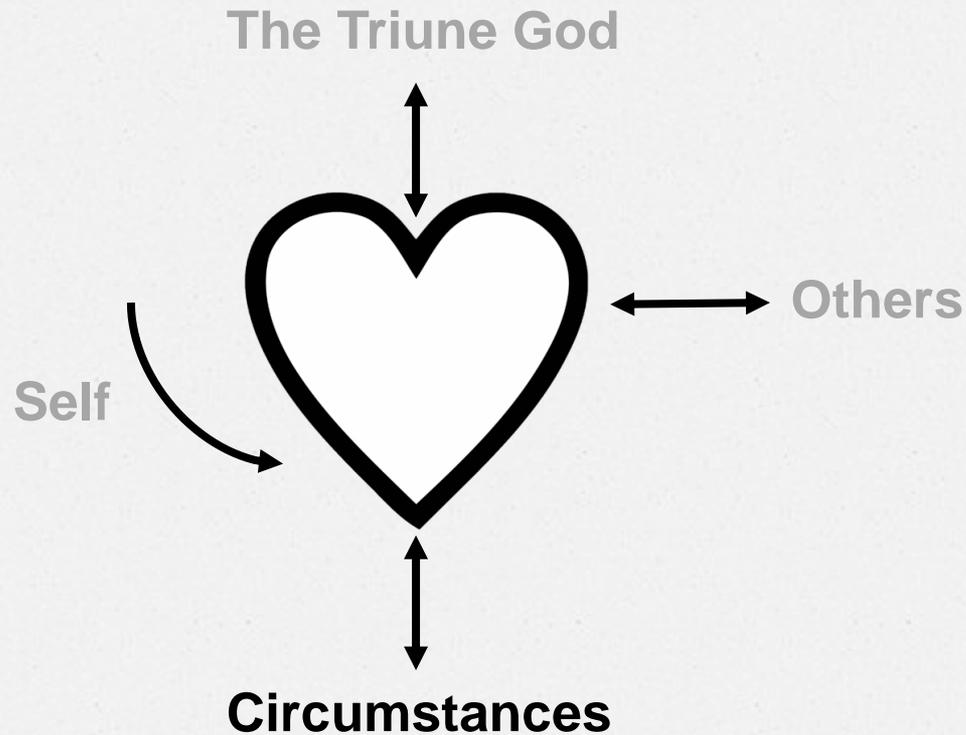
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Prodigal Practice #5

I am personally invested to stay in-tune with what interests her and provide satisfying alternatives.

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(parent not from the context of my world, but the other)



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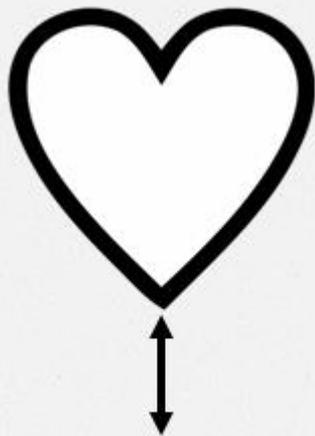
The mind is its own place, and in itself
can make a heaven of hell,
and a hell of heaven.

- John Milton

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Understand the Dynamics

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Circumstances

- We assign meaning to life situations
- ❖ **Shaping Events** – *External conditions that have dynamic effect, resulting in patterns of response that would not have been there otherwise.*
- ❖ **General Routines** – *How we respond to the opportunities and responsibilities presented to us.*

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- *The Dynamic Heart in Daily Life*, Jeremy Pierre

Prodigal Practice #6

My goal is not to be mean but to provide meaning especially when their world seems confusing.

Nothing brings self-centeredness more
clearly into focus than anger.

- Dr Larry Crabb

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The Prodigal Parent

Resolve the anger

“How can we connect?”

Train for leadership

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When he is angry....

(who is responsible?)

To whatever degree I stop provoking him, I
make it easier for him to correct
his anger problem.

Crouching Sin, Hidden Devil



Genesis 4:6-7, Ephesians 4:26-27
Psalm 4:4, Proverbs 16:32

- ❖ Anger is a **transitory emotion** which reveals a terminal condition.
- ❖ In **defensive anger**, the terminal condition is **selfishness**. *It is right in my own eyes.*
- ❖ In **discerning anger**, the terminal condition is **wisdom**. *I need another set of eyes.*

Two Agreements

- 1. I agree to hear you until you are satisfied I understand your perspective.**

You are not agreeing with all that is said, you are simply respecting their perspective.

Two Agreements

- 2. I agree to search for God's will versus demanding my own will.**

You are not giving in but buying in to something better than either one of you could come up with on your own.

Ten Courageous Questions

1. What is your most pressing issue?
2. In addition to this, is there anything else?
3. How is this affecting you?
4. What will the future be like if nothing changes?
5. What do you see as my responsibility for this issue?
6. What do you see as your responsibility for this issues?
7. What does the preferable future look like to you?
8. What is the most powerful thing we can agree to ask God for?
9. Based on the above, what is the one thing that we cannot fail to do?
10. What are the practical steps we must take to make this happen?

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Prodigal Practice #7

I will view anger as an opportunity for her to gain mastery over her selfishness, not as an expression of my right.

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Train up a child in the way he should go,
even when he is old he will not depart from it.

- Proverbs 22:6

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HUNGER

HABIT

Train up a child in the way he should go,
even when he is old he will not depart from it.

HOLINESS

- Proverbs 22:6

The child who grows up deprived of nothing is greatly handicapped in real life. Never consider your affluence to be an advantage to your children. It is a handicap for which you must compensate.

- Michael Pearl

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Prodigal Practice #8

I will invest my life to help her gain Godly appetites and show the attractiveness of living a Christ-centered life.

Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;
for bodily discipline is only little profit,
but godliness is profitable for all things, since it
holds promise for the present life
and also for the life to come.

- 1 Timothy 4:7-8

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