



# Grace-Based Parenting

*Tim Kimmel*

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## **Grace-Based Parenting** Tim Kimmel

Parents in our post-modern world tend to be committed to but anxious about their child-rearing responsibilities. They've tried the countless parenting books on the market, but many of these are strident, fear-based books that loving parents instinctively reject, while still searching for direction.

Now Dr. Tim Kimmel, founder of Family Matters ministries, offers a refreshing new look at parenting. Rejecting rigid rules and checklists that don't work, Dr. Kimmel recommends a parenting style that mirrors God's love, reflects His forgiveness, and displaces fear as a motivator for behavior. As we embrace the grace God offers, we begin to give it-creating a solid foundation for growing morally strong and spiritually motivated children.

Releasing in an affordable trade paper edition, this revolutionary book presents a whole new way to nurture a healthy family.

## **Grace-Based Parenting Details**

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Author : Tim Kimmel

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# From Reader Review Grace-Based Parenting for online ebook

## Elisa Garza says

Wow - this book was really challenging. He talks a lot about giving your kids the grace to do things that aren't morally wrong (even though they might make you cringe - like dying their hair funky colors). Also, the focus should be on raising strong kids instead of "safe" kids. Very thought-provoking. I'm actually going to read this one again . . .

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## Bob says

This was a hard one: I got it knowing I would probably find it challenging because I struggle with being an authoritarian style parent. I often default to "do it because I say so, and don't talk back or argue" and I recognize that I need to be willing to change that in some instances. However, I don't feel that it helped much.

Most of what he says I agree with, and it was a good admonishment to have a different way of thinking about things. I'll take some of what he says to heart. However, there were still huge parts where he was just talking about "grace-filled parenting" but I can't see how it really works out. One of his big points is to take a stand on moral issues but give kids lots of grace on non-moral decisions. Okay, great. Then in the middle of the book he lists some things with an offhand "obviously, these things aren't negotiable", and one of them is bedtime. Excuse me? That's not a moral issue! So while his ideas at a high level are bold and clear, even in his examples in the book he doesn't have a way to consistently apply them to daily life, and that was what kept tripping me up throughout the book. Nice thoughts, but applying them to real life is messy and complicated and this book doesn't help much with that except to make me feel condemned that I don't do a good job.

I guess my summary would be that theoretically, philosophically, it was a pretty good book, but I don't feel like I got much practical use out of it: I don't see how I can really change how I'm parenting. Maybe that means I'm already being a grace-filled parent? Or maybe my kids are just too young to apply this? I'm not sure.

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## Joel Arnold says

I read this book because I've heard so much discussion. I strongly disagreed with the viewpoint and found its thoughts largely unhelpful.

- Kimmel used "grace based" rather loosely and left me feeling that it was just a term for his own perspective. As such, it felt like an unfair prejudicing of the debate. Who's going to win arguing for the anti-grace based approach?
- I agree with his basic dictum that we should treat our kids the way God treats us. I do think, however, that his view of God is distorted. I'm not comfortable, for instance, with defining grace as the core of Christianity. If I had to say one thing I might say the cross. "Grace" without clarification says nothing about sin (and what

it cost to win grace). Many of his comments might be debated, but seem to lead a direction I'm not comfortable with. For instance:

Legalistic homes "teach the standards and rules that God outlines in the Scriptures and do everything in their power to keep their children from choosing sin. In these types of families, it's real easy for kids to assume that things can actually be sin (R-rated movies, spiked hair, short skirts, kids who hang out in groups at the mall, rap music, etc.). These types of homes also make it easy to assume that certain actions are inherently sinful (dancing, watching The Simpsons, coed swimming, going to secular rock concerts, French kissing, etc.). If the list gets long enough, and the barriers that protect the children from these evil "things" and sinful "actions" stay strong enough, it is assumed that the children will find it easier to maintain holiness." To grace based families, "sin is not an action or an object that penetrates their defenses; it is a preexisting condition that permeates their being" (215).

- His exegesis was bad. Really bad. I'm accustomed to reading bad exegesis in marriage and parenting books. This took it to another level. See 110-112 or 223-224. 156-157 is funny. Jesus' disciples were blue-collar workers and therefore might have had tattoos (??) and since Jesus didn't rebuke that it must be okay. By the end, I got nervous anytime he mentioned a verse.

- The thing that bugged me most was the way a child's struggles all went back to parental failure. It started feeling like psycho-analysis and quite deterministic. For instance:

"If you strap a four-month-old child in a highchair and leave him there, there's absolutely nothing he can do to get out of it. He is stuck there until you lift them out. An infant left on his own for long periods of time this way is taught that no matter how much he hopes for relief, no relief is coming. If there are enough scenarios like this in his early life, he could assume that there isn't much in life worth putting his hope in. This makes him vulnerable to embracing Satan's counterfeits of power, control, or abuse as substitutes for hope and conditions him away from the notion that it is even worth it to put his trust in God" (98).

"Unfortunately, parental negligence - whether intentional or unintentional - can set a child up to struggle with hopelessness and feelings of inadequacy for a lifetime" (97).

- Much of the book sounded like a recipe for a child-centered home. For instance, they instituted "what's your beef nights" where the kids could bring up any thing they felt the parents had done wrong. The parents weren't allowed to clarify or explain - just say they were sorry. (206-207).

Overall, I wouldn't think this book is worth your time.

Here are a few notes and excerpts I jotted down while reading.

9 - "the real test of a parenting model is how well equipped the children are to move into adulthood as vital members of the human race." Nothing about loving God?

11 - he says that evangelicals withdrew from culture in the 60s and created our own parallel cultural universe. Ironically, this is the date for the rise of the "new evangelicalism" that specifically sought to engage with the culture!

12 - the culture has secularized. What went wrong? It's because we stopped having good families. Seems really over-simplistic in terms of history.

14-16 - Types of bad parenting: (1) Fear based where they are afraid of the world, (2) behavior modification where you try to give them a good environment, (3) image control (conformity for the sake of reputation), (4) high control, (5) herd mentality following fads, (6) duct tape where you deal with a string of crises, and (7) 911 parenting (same idea).

16-17 these come down to judgmental (we're better than that family) or legalistic (God will appreciate you if you do this).

25 - the three fundamental needs of a child are security, significance and strength. The answers are love, purpose and hope.

26 - talking about the myriad advice people face for their parenting is a good way to make this book stand out so it isn't just one more parenting book.

28-29 not real comfortable with picking out grace (or any other concept) as the single core of Christianity.

32 - "Ephesians 5:22 is between a wife and God, not between a husband and wife." I do think a husband has a leadership role to bring this up sometimes.

52 - weak definition of love - "love is the commitment of my will to your needs and best interests regardless of the cost."

55 - I think that obnoxious or embarrassing things are still worthy of correction - I want Jeremy to grow into social awareness. I don't think helping him on this will "build a foundation of insecurity in them."

59-60 - conclusion from the example seems a little simplistic.

61 - limits family rules to "times when it's the only workable solution or makes godly sense. Otherwise it makes no sense—especially if you are trying to teach your child the way god treats us. Kids inside homes where nonmoral issues are elevated to the level of big problems don't get to experience the kind of acceptance that makes a heart feel securely loved."

72 - it feels like a child is doomed to failure and personal catastrophe if parents fail to show them all kinds of emotional support. Something feels really Freudian. I would rather think parenting is about transferring a worldview and instilling character. Also 84, 172

75 - "It's more important that we help our children reach their potential than it is to see our own dreams come true." Sounds like a child centered home. What about something like, "we should be ministering along with our children so they will want to give their lives serving God as well."

77 - a list of nice warm life purposes for children but not one that relates to God.

89 - his view of depravity seems weak.

97 - good statement: our children need "to be raised by parents who treat them the way Christ treats us as parents."

96 - weak definition of grace.

97- "unfortunately, parental negligence - whether intentional or unintentional - can set a child up to struggle with hopelessness and feelings of inadequacy for a lifetime."

98 - Very deterministic. "If you strap a four-month-old child in a highchair and leave him there, there's absolutely nothing he can do to get out of it. He is stuck there until you lift them out. An infant left on his own for long periods of time this way is taught that no matter how much he hopes for relief, no relief is coming. If there are enough scenarios like this in his early life, he could assume that there isn't much in life worth putting his hope in. This makes him vulnerable to embracing Satan's counterfeits of power, control, or abuse as substitutes for hope and conditions him away from the notion that it is even worth it to put his trust in God."

100 - applies this to schedule feeding.

102-104 - argues from Jesus' teaching but completely misses the main point - seek first the kingdom of God. Instead it becomes how God is our heavenly therapist and provider for our needs and we should do that for our kids.

110-112 a tour de force of bad exegesis. Note particularly the argument from a plural that is actually singular in the Hebrew and in most English translations.

114 - impressively bad argument - "what's interesting about the God of creation is that every time He made something, He commented that it was "good." But notice: He never suggested that what He made was "safe." Spend a night at sea in a terrible storm and you realize just how unsafe the universe can be." Strange.

122 - in a list of 12 goals for how kids should turn out, only one is spiritual.

129 - "Personal behavior remained the litmus test, and that development still haunts many within the mainstream evangelical church today." Jesus says you'll know people by their fruits.

132 - "One thing I knew: I didn't want my children growing up in a home where they felt that God's pleasure

was determined by their behavior."

132-133 - obnoxious posturing against people who disagree.

142-43 - If it's not biblically forbidden parents should let their children do something.

152 - not sure how it works to apply Exod. 20:4-6 to Jack-o-lanterns. Really bad explanation of worldliness.

155 - "Using God's Word out of context to win your argument is a variation of taking God's name in vain—something strictly forbidden in the Ten Commandments." Really? No further support or explanation.

156-57 - CRAZY argument. Jesus' disciples might have had tattoos and he never rebuked tattoos specifically so it's okay.

166 - He seems to use "grace based home" just meaning good parents or people that handle something the way Kimmel would.

176 - talking about 2 Cor. 12, "it was in God's grace that Paul figured out how to feel secure, significant, and strong."

188 - a legitimate concept of a home where kids can candidly ask hard questions and talk openly about their struggles.

193 (top) - strange that the problem in a family is the parents dishonoring the kids. Seems backwards somehow.

194 - we need to "let" our children speak to us in a way that is constructive and loving. He seems to assume that they will do that if we just give them the opportunity, not that we have to require them to.

205-206 - the worst exegesis of Heb. 12:17.

206-207 - they had "what's your beef nights" where the kids could bring up any thing they felt the parents had done wrong. The parents weren't allowed to clarify or explain - just say they were sorry.

208-209 - really strange conversation.

215 - legalistic homes "teach the standards and rules that God outlines in the Scriptures and do everything in their power to keep their children from choosing sin. In these types of families, it's real easy for kids to assume that things can actually be sin (R-rated movies, spiked hair, short skirts, kids who hang out in groups at the mall, rap music, etc.). These types of homes also make it easy to assume that certain actions are inherently sinful (dancing, watching The Simpsons, coed swimming, going to secular rock concerts, French kissing, etc.). If the list gets long enough, and the barriers that protect the children from these evil "things" and sinful "actions" stay strong enough, it is assumed that the children will find it easier to maintain holiness." To grace based families, "sin is not an action or an object that penetrates their defenses; it is a preexisting condition that permeates their being."

218 - good point: kids should feel like they're free to communicate their struggles with sin.

221 - when your kids sin the important thing is not to condemn. In the next paragraph he says this will help them trust Christ later. But doesn't God condemn sin - especially unsaved people?

223-224 - "If the father in the story [of the prodigal son] represents God... then it is obvious that God is telling us 'Listen, I'm God, and yet because of free will, I can't (or won't) stop My children from rebelling. If I can't keep my children in line, and I'm God, I don't see why you should be beating yourself up for not keeping yours in line.'"

224 - there are lots of legitimate forms of discipline besides just spanking. You need to find a method that is "most effective and align well with you."

228 - summarizes the book well: "You wonder, How am I to raise up children to love and serve God? The answer is actually not that difficult. You simply need to treat your children the way God treats you. He does it in His grace. And here's the good part. If the only thing you get right as parents is His grace, everything else will be just fine."

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**Melissa says**

Parenting is job #1, but no kid comes with a manual on how best to parent his/her individual selves. My parents did a lot of things right, but they weren't perfect and neither am I. Parenthood is a naturally guilt-ridden state. I've worked as many as three jobs at one time, and even that wasn't as difficult as trying to be a good parent.

Kimmel makes superior points about children's need for security, significance, and strength and explains that to meet those needs, the gifts of love, purpose, and hope must be given. Creating a grace-based environment is the best way to assure those needs are fulfilled. One of my favorite lines is: "Love is the commitment of my will to your needs and best interests, regardless of the cost." Embracing grace is a liberating path to a thriving, spiritual family life.

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### **Sabrina Langehaug says**

This book absolutely changed my view of parenting. With five children underfoot, tension and tempers can rise quickly, both from my children as well as myself. This book reminded me that children are born sinful and instead of being appalled when they disobey, it should be expected. How we respond as parents tremendously shapes their view of our God.

Now I will add that for those with only littles (7ish and under), this book might not be for you...yet. Young children still need clear boundaries and expectations. Being firm is having grace on them. However, as children shift into older phases, what they need from their parents is an example of grace included in their consequences. Tim Kimmel doesn't ignore the need for discipline, he just encourages parents to see the full picture.

I personally loved this book. ?

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### **Carissa Norris says**

I just finished Grace Based Parenting by Tim Kimmel. Wow, wow and wow. What a beautiful, uplifting, encouraging book. If you are a parent who is tired of feeling like you are battling your children everyday, this is the book for you. Tim shows us how to parent in a way that is grace-filled, that releases our homes from legalism and lets our children truly live as God intended: free in Christ.

I cannot recommend this book more highly. I came away feeling refreshed and more confident as a parent. Parenting shouldn't be a daily downer; it should be uplifting. Tim has helped me see how to accomplish this.

Tim focuses on the three inner needs that every child has: a need for security, a need for significance and a need for strength. He approaches each of these in its own chapter revealing how parents can provide love for security, purpose for significance and hope for strength. He then discusses the freedoms children should experience to assure they do have the previous three elements in their homes: the freedom to be different, the freedom to be vulnerable, the freedom to be candid and the freedom to make mistakes.

This book is challenging. It will challenge your preconceived notions about Christian parenting. It will make you take a hard look at your parenting. But it is a good look. I am so glad I read this book. I kept thinking, "I am glad I found this early in my daughter's childhood." This is a book I feel every Christian parent should

read. It's a book that will probably end up a baby shower gift that I will give over and over and over!

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### **Sarah says**

It had some nuggets in the beginning that were helpful and gave me some new perspectives to consider. After that, it was quite vague, and I found myself wondering if the Bible would agree with all of it. The general concept of the book can be summed up in about one sentence: Display God's grace to your children. Beyond that, I don't consider this a must-read parenting book.

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### **R.K. Goff says**

Ugh. I hate reviewing this one.

It drove me mad and I wanted to throw it across the room several times. I did wind up hissing at it once or twice. I would also highly recommend it.

Kimmel has produced a solid work of philosophy/right-thought (as opposed to a practical instruction book) on what he believes are the most important aspects of parenting. I agree with him. I think he managed to take a potentially confusing idea of grace and applied it marvelously to how parents should see, and treat their children. The genius stroke was when he boiled it down in chapter 6 to four basic ideas that children should be raised with to feel secure, free and loved.

From personal experience, I can say he's really got something. My parents did a fantastic job raising me and my siblings, and for the first time I read their parenting practice explained in words.

Very worth reading.

The "bad" points (meaning points I don't like) about the book had to do with how Kimmel worked with the Bible. There are a number of times where he presumes more about a situation or teaching than the text warrants and then states them as fact. \*Scream of frustration here\* I HATE it when people do that. My skin crawled so far up the wall I had to get a ladder to bring it down again. There was a point or two where I also had suspicions that his approach to very specific verses weren't well researched, and so may have been wrong in his assertions about what they meant. But I didn't note them, they weren't all that important, and there's a chance (with my not having researched them either) he may be right.

My personal issues aside--this book has ideas worth understanding, and should be read.

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### **Greg says**

Grace Based Parenting  
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Over the last 16 years as a parent I have read a lot of books on parenting, I have taught many courses on parenting, and my wife and I have given a lot of advice to parents, plus we have made a lot of mistakes that



we hope to learn from. This book is probably one of the best books on Christian parenting that I have read. I would put it in my top 3 with “Shepherding a Child’s Heart” and “Age of Opportunity”.

If you are looking for a reading road-map for your children, I would start with “Shepherding a Child’s Heart – Tripp”, and focus on and apply what this book teaches, and then when your children are 5 or 6 years old read “Grace-Based Parenting – Kimmel” and add this to what you have been doing, not a replacement, and then once your children are in their pre-teen years 11 -13 I would add “Age of Opportunity – Tripp”, if you read and applied no other books to your parenting these 3 would cover it all.

In Grace-Based Parenting, Dr. Kimmel focuses on the grace provided by God the Father - the ultimate child and family expert, as our standard our aim and goal as parents; to apply the grace shown to us by God to our own children.

This book is not a how-to book, I don’t remember reading any methods of parenting, but it is chock-full of timeless principles and truth to form the foundation to build the methods on.

Grace-Based Parenting is not another manual full of impossible standards; rather it is a new map for learning to see ourselves and our children through God’s limitless tenderness - to raise our kids the way God raises us. This thoughtful, profound and compassionate book represents a truly liberating way to nurture a healthy family. As we embrace the grace He offers, we begin to give it - creating a sound foundation for growing morally strong and spiritually motivated children.

Includes chapter 1 of Dr. Kimmel’s book - “Why Christian Kids Rebel”

You can purchase it online from:

<http://catalyst.ourchurchbookstore.co...>

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## **Ashley says**

I first read this book on a bus to Kyoto, pregnant with my first child. It was good but despite my resolve, all I really remembered from it was the anecdotes. Re-reading it now in the small hours before sleep as an exhausted mom of 2 preschoolers, I have new appreciation for it.

What I appreciate most about this book is that unlike some that I’ve read in the parenting genre, it does NOT promise that if you obey this formula, you are guaranteed upright model citizens. No, rather it warns against legalism (so pervasive in Christian circles) that defines sin as "external actions" and legitimately warns against using formulas.

Instead, it is a deeply biblical meditation on how God parents us as adults, and how we can in turn model that in our parenting. Here is freedom. Here is encouragement and affirmation. Here, too, can be conviction, but always in a gentle way and never in stern tones.

If you only read one parenting book, I really think it ought to be this one.

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## Sarah says

Now it may seem odd at first glance that I, a single, childless woman, would pick up a book on parenting, but I have a bit of a love-affair with grace and happened across this lovely tome whilst babysitting at my sister's. The beautiful thing about this one is that it's less of a parenting how-to (totally irrelevant to me) and more of understanding and developing my relationship with God by understanding and developing all sorts of relationships around me. In short, this book is about living life with a keen awareness of my own desperate need for constant grace! This should really be titled something like Grace-Based Living (or Christocentric or Gospel-Oriented... you get the idea). It's not a difficult read and sometimes I feel Kimmel tries to hard in making his points – the average intellect got it a couple pages ago already – but then there are many other passages that you can only ingest a sentence or two at a time. I recommend this to anyone with any kind of relationship to any other human. Slash "all y'all".

Some favourite moments (this is mostly for my failing memory, not necessarily anyone else's edification, though take from it what you will):

- Truth is inseparable from grace. Boundaries in one's life stem from a passionate and grateful relationship with Christ rather than a moral checklist of human invention. Grace and truth are like Siamese twins joined at the heart – to separate is to kill both.
- "Cheap grace" isn't really grace at all. Rather, grace pushes toward holiness and propels us to embrace truth. "Cheap grace" holds people down and sets them up for heartache. "Cheap grace" is cowardice, laziness, and selfishness.
- Raising "safe Christian kids" is a spiritual disaster in the making. Folks, I'm a huge fan of the theory of Christian education (to take one small example) but in reality, I've seen Christian schools become 'safe havens' for parents too lazy or just plain unable to parent well. The result is kids who are ill equipped to live fruitfully in the world or to be able to respond well to any ideas that don't fit into the safe little boxes we've contrived for them. Jesus is good, but He isn't safe (yes, that's an Aslan reference). There are risks to living Christianly – read Hebrews 11! In attempting to provide a sanitary, hermetically sealed Christian existence, we forget the power of God – we think God is incapable of doing what He said He would do. Friends, that's a strong indictment. Raising safe kids produces a generation of people who must stay within a spiritually sterilized environment in order to thrive. These are nice systems that produce nice kids who marry nice kids who go to nice churches and hang out with like-minded friends. (Dare I mention the majority of Dutch Reformed churches?!)
- Legalism is the lazy man's religion. It doesn't require much thinking, or a relationship with God.
- Grace, on the other hand, is freeing – it gives the freedom to be different, to be vulnerable, to be candid, to make mistakes (that last one is a toughie for any Dutchie). Therefore, living by grace can be hard, because it is unnatural.
- Grace isn't a nice little theological system that allows you to do anything you want. Rather, it's a lifestyle and set of choices that are the outgrowth of a walk (a lifelong journey with twists and turns!) with Him.
- Grace-based families aren't preoccupied with keeping sin out by putting a fence between themselves and the world. These fences don't exist, because grace-based people understand that sin is already present and accounted for inside each one of us. Sin is not an action or object that somehow managed to penetrate our defenses; it is a pre-existing condition that permeates our being. Grace-based parents aren't surprised or angry by sin; they expect it – and point the sinner to the work of Christ on his behalf.
- Legalism: an exoskeleton that depends on an external environment to hold our urges in check and temptation at bay.
- Grace: an endoskeleton that sees our strength by Who is working inside us. The unlimited power of Christ and thorough effect of His finished work on the cross form the internal belief system that functions as the skeleton keeping us strong.

- "Your propensity toward sin shouldn't surprise, threaten, or even bother you. You know you're a sinner. You realize you have a bent toward selfishness, stubbornness, and lawlessness – exactly the kind of person Christ loves and for whom He died. By acknowledging your children's sin from the outset, you can encourage them to struggle with their sin out in the open where you can talk about it and direct them to the power of Christ. And when the children are actually sinning, grace makes it easy for you to have open, candid, and vulnerable discussions about the areas in which they struggle. You should be able to talk openly and honestly about sin because you're aware of your own sin. Grace demands a humility and sensitivity toward your children's battles with sin because grace is a daily reminder of how desperately you need the Saviour as well."

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### **Cody says**

I went through this book with another group of fathers. That book itself was great! Honestly, all the conversations that came from other fathers chewing through this together is what really makes it stick. Great book.

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### **Jenny says**

I don't know if it was the writer's style or the present mood or circumstances I've been in, but I had to put the book down. Every time I'd put pick it up, I'd eventually find myself in a disgruntled mood (about life, my marriage and the ways were were each brought up). I got through over half the book. I thought the ideas and precepts were really good, but the ways he elaborated on them were not helpful. I found him more critical of people that don't parent "right" and he seemed prone to using scare tactics to deter parents. The scare tactics were used as either "you get only one chance at getting it right". He did not come across as a gracious author and his book is based on grace. I was always confused and conflicted as I read. He said parents should parent like God, but there were little specifics on how God parents. The best thing that I took from him was encouragement to let my children be in the world and not isolate them in a controlled 'Christian' environment. This takes courage and wisdom, both of which I am challenged to seek God more on. I'm discouraged that I couldn't finish the book since so many people like it, maybe I'll try again later...

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### **Maura says**

I loved this book, and hope to re-read it at least once, if not regularly. I think it is great on many levels. It is especially good for more authoritarian Christian parents, to help them understand how we can (and should?) parent our children with the grace with which our loving God parents us. I think far too many Christian parents lean more toward the justice side of God than the grace side. Another thing that came to my mind often as I read this book is how much I would love my non-Christian (or pre-Christian as I call them!) friends to read this book. I think it shows how Christian parents are not all the same, and that we are not all the conservative, legalistic parents that many imagine all Christian parents are. Mostly I loved this book for how it confirmed for me over and over what I believe about God's love, and how it inspires me to seek His empowerment to love as He loves.

The only shortfall for me, is it doesn't offer any techniques. I'm totally OK with this, but I would love to have

heard more examples of grace in action, especially in concert with the justice piece, which is does not leave out - warning. I get the grace. I get the justice, like traditional parenting. But I find myself leaning entirely toward the grace, and then when I don't get the results I need, falling hard into the justice. I think I just need to pray for the proper Power and Wisdom and Peace and Love with which to impart justice when necessary.

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### **Miles Morrison says**

Was so excited about this book, but for the most part was left disappointed. Dr. Kimmel's problem isn't that he isn't informed, but that he doesn't clearly say what he's getting at. I love the overall message that Kimmel is giving about grace-based parenting, but every chapter in this book could have been shortened considerably if he didn't beat a dead horse into the ground at every turn. Perhaps the most frustrating aspect is that his parenting focus seems to be a response to legalistic parenting, and so instead of teaching what grace-based parenting looks like, he spends most of the pages degrading poor parenting. For someone who preaches grace for children, he doesn't have much for parents.

The teaching here is mostly good, but the presentation makes it a bitter pill to swallow at times.

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