

## Completing the Parenting Puzzle: Grace, Forgiveness, and Mercy

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

As parents, we get to model the heart of God in how we show our love to our children. That is an honor which also brings a level of terror for us. Our children live with us. They know who we really are. And with that depth of knowledge, they are supposed to see Christ in and through us.

Today we are going to focus on what our response should look like when our children fail. We have a great example with being able to see how God responded and continues to respond.

1. Grace, forgiveness, and mercy do not erase consequences or punishment.
2. Grace shows the desire for restoration and renewal.  
Colossians 4:6, Ephesians 4:29, 1 Timothy 1:12-14, Romans 3:23-25
3. Forgiveness makes past activities ineffective toward future opportunities.  
Hebrews 9:28, 10:11-12, Acts 13:38-39, Matthew 6:12, 15, Matthew 18:21-22, Luke 23:34
4. Mercy takes action to ensure our constant presence and desire to ease suffering.  
Luke 6:36, Genesis 19:16, Deuteronomy 4:31, Nehemiah 9:31, Isaiah 55:7, Titus 3:5, Colossians 3:12-13, Luke 15:20