

PARENTING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Communicator, author, and pastor Andy Stanley founded Atlanta-based North Point Ministries (NPM) in 1995. Today, NPM consists of seven churches in the Atlanta area and a network of nearly 100 churches around the globe that collectively serve nearly 185,000 people weekly. A survey of U.S. pastors in Outreach Magazine identified Andy as one of the ten most influential living pastors in America.

Andy holds an undergraduate degree in journalism from Georgia State University and a master's degree from Dallas Theological Seminary. He is the author of more than 20 books, including *Irresistible*, *The New Rules for Love, Sex & Dating*, *How to Be Rich*, *Deep & Wide*, *Enemies of the Heart*, *When Work & Family Collide*, *Visioneering*, and *Next Generation Leader*.

His success reaches well beyond the Atlanta area. Over 10.5 million of his messages, leadership videos, YouTube videos, and podcasts are accessed each month.



[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/QBJCJFADHG](https://youtu.be/QBJCJFADHG)

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- When you fear your children, you place them in charge of your relationship and even your marriage.
- But those successful parents did not fear the rejection of their kids.
- They were able to discipline their kids.

Not **Afraid**

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Discovered



Forced

- The successful parents discovered and then facilitated their kid's interest.
- Built off of their skills and talents instead of forcing their kids to follow the parents' interest.
- They became students of their kids and assisted them with growing in what was natural for them instead of forcing them to become a mini me.
- I challenged my boys to try different sports and other activities but then ultimately allowed them to follow what interested them.

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They prioritized
relationships over
experience.

- They prioritized experiences they could have together instead of going in 100 different directions.
- Reminds me of an experience where Matthew was on a baseball team that ended up going to the playoffs and Matt was one of the better players on the team. The coach became furious when I told him Matt wouldn't be able to play in the playoffs because of a Disney vacation that we had planned six months earlier. A few years later I asked Matt did he regret going to Disney instead of playing, and his answer was I would never give up our vacation time together for a game. This was coming from a 14-year-old boy. He got it....
- So, it was more important to develop their relationship and their children(s) relationship over individual experiences.

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Healthy Marriages

- Not perfect but healthy marriages.
- The best parenting tool we could give, the best gift we could give our children was a healthy marriage.
- To isolate marriage from parenting is actually like stealing something from the current and the next generation.
- I have shared with my boys that I learned most of my parenting lesson from my dad and other fathers that I looked up to growing up. Guess where I encountered most of the fathers I looked up to during my childhood? If you guessed church you're right. I tell my boys all the time to learn from the example that I set. Good and bad. What to and not to do.
- What is consider a nuclear family? A mother, father and children living together under the same roof.

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REAL



IDEAL

- Ideal seems out of reach.
- We have to acknowledge where we are.
- There are no real good examples of family in the Bible.
- We have to take into consideration reality, what's going on.
- The authors of the New Testament paint a picture of what family could and should be.
- They point us into the direction of ideal while embracing what is real.
- If we remove ideal from the family equation because it seems out of reach, it means it will remain out of reach for the next generation. Think of it as a stretch goal.
- Our responsibility as parents and grandparents is to give our kids something to aim for. Something to live for and most importantly something to decide towards.
- And this is the area that Jesus operated and lived in throughout his ministry. He always preached and shared the ideal but understood you have to be in and understand the real. That is where He operated from.

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“Christ died for our sins
according to the
scripture.”

“For God so loved the
world....”

1 Corinthians 15:3
John 3:16

- The gospel assumes sin, the gospel assumes we're going to get it wrong.
- The gospel assumed real while pointing to ideal.
- Christ showed up in a complete disordered world where ideal seemed out of reach honestly for everyone.
- John 3:16.
- God is talking about our broken world.
- The tension between real and ideal was embedded in about everyone of Jesus's parables. He would say things like; The Kingdom of God is like and the disciples would remind him yeah but this isn't the Kingdom of God, to which Jesus would smile and say, come to me all that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest, you will find rest for your soul. Then He would pivot and say, (next slide).....

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“You have heard it
that it was said,
‘you shall **not**
commit adultery.’

Matthew 5:27

- Jesus audience would replay, yes, we have heard it said, then he would go on to say (next slide)

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But I tell you that anyone that has **looks** at a woman lustfully has **already** committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Matthew 5:28

- The disciples would say Jesus, that makes us feel bad about ourselves so don't say things like that anymore. That's unrealistic. But Jesus kept saying things like that.
- Jesus kept pointing toward ideal so people had something to aspire to.
- And when he bumped into them and they fell short he didn't condemn them like the religious leaders did at that time. He showed them grace.

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Jesus didn't lower the standard,
He turned up the grace!!!

He **condemned** the
condemners.

He **died** for the
condemned.

- Jesus condemned the condemners.
- Then he died for the condemned.
- Instead of lowering the standard, he turned up the grace.

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Jesus raised the standard on marriage so high, that he slammed the door on a mans opportunity to wiggle out of his responsibility **for his family**.....

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The 12 apostles
said;

“If this is the situations between
a husband and a wife, it’s better
not to marry.”

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Jesus never **dumbed**
down the truth, but He
never **turned** down the
grace!!

- John who knew Jesus well looking back over his time spent with Jesus saw Him deal with real people dealing with real situations.

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The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

We have seen his glory, **the glory of the one** and only son, who came from the father, full of **grace** and **truth**.

John 1:14

- So, God decided to come and be with us in the mess of the world we had created through our desires and wants.

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Jesus was **all**
grace and **all**
truth **all** the
time.

- And remember Jesus never dumbed down the truth to make us feel better about ourselves,
- and he never turned down the grace.
- That's the kind of Christian and person I want to be. I want to live like Jesus but I know I'll fall short of His truth and need His grace so I should share His truths and provide grace to others.
- Truth without grace creates pretenders and hypocrites.
- Grace without truth creates a permissive kind of faith that hurts everyone in the end.
- Grace and truth as personified by Jesus is powerful.....

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For the **law** was given
through **Moses, grace**
and **truth** came through
Jesus Christ.

John 1:17

- Jesus is the one that introduces and created the tension between truth and grace. Then he lived in it.
- As difficult as this may be, this is what we are called to live out as Christians and what we are to model corporately.
- The church is the body of Christ, and as his body this is our responsibility.
- This is our role in culture.
- This is how we serve our conscience and provide comfort in our communities and nation.
- Our conscience will make us feel bad from time to time but it also keeps us from losing our way and gives us our barring and guides us on what we should do.
- It tells us when we've moved into a dangerous situation and warns us, we're about to undermine our future for us and those that depend on us.

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Back to parenting
& marriage

Ideal is parents raising
children together under one
roof.

Communities don't raise
children, parents raise
children.*

- Communities and government organizations kick in to assist to protect kids when they feel kids are not getting what they need
- They protect kids, schools feed them.....
- And we want better than that. Better than that for each other, and for the next generation.
- Communities don't raise kids but they do set expectations & standards.

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You go to great lengths to
make sure that your kids
are raised in communities
that affirm your values.

- That's why we're all here right?
- That's why we come to Christiana / church.

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Every once in a while we need to be reminded of what should be and could be. Maybe not what can be for us, but what should and could be for our children. That's good parenting.

- Every now in then we need to collate back to what's (next slide)

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Real

Ideal



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Marriage matters



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“I just needed to **see** it to **aim** for it. Once I saw it and **experienced** it, I knew what I wanted. Until then, I didn't know such thing even **existed!**”

Rick Jackson

- Until Rick lived with the Price family, he didn't even know what a family really looked like.
- **Once you see it you can't unsee it. Once you see it you can't forget it.**

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Good parenting is about preparing our children for their future.

Requires us to cast a compelling vision of their future. What should and could be for them regardless of where our lives have taken us.

- I believe everything that small children see, experience in their lives create standards for their core values in life and guess what they're going to do, repeat it.
- I believe that's why a lot of professional athletes that come from poverty but earn millions during their careers typically end back up in poverty. Because they've been conditioned that it's where they belong.

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Large Group Activity

- What idea or concept stood out to you the most?
- What ideas did you agree with?*

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Small & Large Group Activity

- As a parent / grandparent / guardian, what concepts do you think we need to focus on? Capture the list.
- Prioritize the list.
- Determine the top 3.
- As a large group: determine the top 3.
- What are steps we can take to move in that direction?
- How can we as a parent group support this?*



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Thanks for participating and we'll see
you next time to continue our
discussion concerning Parenting in the
21st Century!

