



# Connecting Church & Home: A Grace-Based Partnership

*Tim Kimmel*

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## **Connecting Church & Home: A Grace-Based Partnership** Tim Kimmel

Tim Kimmel gives a comprehensive strategy to churches for family ministry as well as a plan for parents seeking to pass their faith to the next generation. He shares valuable tools for the church to use to build a strong family ministry. A child who has seen grace lived out in front of him at church and at home is much more inclined toward staying committed to a relationship with God into adulthood. So Kimmel shares what a grace-based family ministry looks like in the local church. He also teaches parents how to translate every part of ministry they are exposed to at church to translate into spiritual training at home. The Family Ministry Map, created by Kimmel, is explained in detail, and examples of the program put into practice are given. This book gives a vital message to church ministry leaders and parents equally, making this a must-read for all involved in sharing faith with the next generation.

## **Connecting Church & Home: A Grace-Based Partnership Details**

Date : Published February 19th 2013 by Randall House Publications

ISBN : 9780892656790

Author : Tim Kimmel

Format : Paperback 137 pages

Genre : Parenting, Christian, Family, Leadership

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## From Reader Review Connecting Church & Home: A Grace-Based Partnership for online ebook

### Ethan says

A treatise for ministry through the prism of grace.

The author's main premise is the necessity for grace to saturate every and all relationship(s). He sets forth how this works in the home among parents and children and then extends the image to relationships within the church. Much of the discussion centers on how to develop grace-based ministry and how that looks in practice.

The author's understanding of grace is solid; his application of how grace looks in real life in terms of affirming inner needs, freedom, and character development is excellent; valuing, empowering, freeing, and aiming disciples is an excellent construct.

As with all resources there are some things one might disagree with and some things that may not be very beneficial or effective in one's unique context, but the general principles of grace in the family and the church is of great importance.

Worth consideration.

\*\*--received as part of early review program

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### Catherine Gillespie says

Although I enjoyed Grace Based Parenting, I will say that Connecting Church and Home is a better written, and more persuasive look at how to go about ministry to children, in families and churches, with a gospel focus.

Kimmel notes with concern that our western culture encourages parents to outsource “spiritual heavy lifting” to “professionals” in churches, which isn’t God’s model, nor is it very effective. He points out that children adopt the culture of their homes, and two hours a week at Sunday School and church is not going to give them a deeply rooted faith.

{Read my full review here}

Note: I received a review copy of this book, but the opinions here and in my longer linked review are my own.

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### Teri Underwood says

Lately one of the big debates in church circles is about family ministry. How do we best meet the needs of family in obedience to biblical principles? It’s not easy. And there doesn’t seem to be a “one size fits all” answer. That’s why I believe books like Connecting Church & Home by Dr. Tim Kimmel are so important.

Whether you are a parent who desires to provide your children with a heritage of spiritual influence and confidence or a church leader who longs to build a family ministry that effectively empowers parents to teach and guide their children spiritually, Dr. Kimmel's book is for you. Connecting Church & Home is an insightful and encouraging resource for building a partnership between churches and families. I highly recommend it.

{full review on my website.}

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### **Jim Jackson says**

This book didn't really say anything that hasn't been said in Think Orange, Church & Home by Holmen, or even Kimmel's previous book, Grace-based parenting. There are however numerous nice reminders about significant things that impeded and that support home-based faith development. And Kimmel's writing is very accessible. At a level, this is a very informative sales brochure for his other resources.

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### **Anjanette Barr says**

We've been in our new home for about a month now, and we've visited three churches. I started reading "Connecting Church & Home" at just the right moment. This book isn't about finding a church family, but it has helped me prioritize the characteristics that we should look for in addition to sound doctrine. Specifically, Dr. Kimmel advises that we pay closer attention to the church's philosophy than its strategy or tactics.

That may sound obvious and simplistic, but the way he unravels the implications of that truth has been a huge blessing for me.

Dr. Kimmel spends time helping the reader see that even a church with wonderful, orthodox theology, a passionate staff, generous volunteers, and stellar programming will fall short of effectively sharing the gospel and transforming lives if their underlying philosophy is not one of grace: treating others the way God treats (and loves) us.

From his point of view, that culture of grace begins at home, so a (the?) main focus of a local church should be to train and equip parents (and members in general) to respond to their children each other with grace. Theology and evangelism aren't downplayed in this paradigm. On the contrary, he believes that our theology has to be solid in order to really live in grace. I definitely agree.

What does living in grace look like? The last few chapters of this book are full of practical application. I was getting nervous about the number of questions popping into my head as I read the first 3/4 of the book, and I was so pleased that he'd answered them all by the end.

Dr. Kimmel isn't advertising for a specific church model – this can be applied to the way your church lives as a family whether you have age-segregated ministries or a family-integrated church. And most importantly for me, it can be applied even by parents who aren't finding the support they need in their church.

Full review here: <http://www.raisingthebarrs.com/2013/0...>

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## Rebecca Brandt says

There is a huge movement to place grace in homes and I agree that grace and mercy are both beautiful gifts from God. However, I believe this can be dangerous if Love is not first and foremost. Jesus tells us to Love others - and i can't find (and have asked many) where scripture tells us to specifically to give grace. I fear that believers have misunderstood what grace and mercy are and that 'love' has been overused to the point where truth is not seen in God's word, or perhaps people are afraid to be honest due to certain movements through the years.

However, I can't, in good conscience recommend this book to others.

The author is writing about grace, yet throughout the book does not 'show' grace in his words, but shows a condescending and unloving spirit towards others. Here is one example

Pg 46: "Oh, they gave the saving nature of grace all right, but they don't see the ongoing and transforming role of it. If they did, they'd never ask such a clueless and unbiblical question."

Yes, grace is a gift from God where He gives us the gift of salvation which we do not deserve. When we fully understand that and have been taught that in a biblical way, not only do we understand it, but we share it automatically. To call someone clueless and 'unbiblical' when they may not have had someone walk that journey with them is - without grace.

I question the author's desire to fully follow God's word - or at least really don't understand his thoughts here - on page 40 - "A biblically focused church and family is often understood as something we do. A grace-based church and family is most often understood as something we are." I have to really take a step back from this. A biblically focused church is one with the Bible at the front, where as a legalistic family or church is something we 'do' - and a grace based church is one that is humble and understands the love poured out, which gave us grace.... I believe the terms used are confusing and misleading.

Another example of misusing terms: "There are a lot of folks who drop the grace bomb when they're in trouble as a way to manipulate you to circumvent the consequences for their folly. That's not grace. That's mercy." Again, i question the terminology used here. That's not grace or mercy, that's manipulations - he had it right with the first word but added more words to try and shame a person and take away the appropriate sin committed to prove a point.

A last example of misusing terms - page 46: "God isn't a pushover who lets the people He loves get away with stupid stuff." I'm assuming the author is talking about sin - so, let's call sin what it is - sin. It is an act against God. "Stupid stuff" is a very humanistic way of taking sin and making it sound as if it is less than it really is and again, shaming someone, rather than properly walking the journey to RESTORE them back into Christ. And I see no grace in that.

There are other examples, but I think those are plenty. But there is one last point. Any author who writes about how parents and churches need to work together, really needs to look to the Bible and point others there. This author created a 'paper napkin' ministry in order to identify how parents should 'create an overarching plan for raising his or her kids and transferring a heart of faith to the children in his or her church." (chapter 5)

As I read through this, I read another 'check list' not based on full biblical principles, not on the principles by which 'God parents me" - I say this because the author states we should parent as God parents us. While that's relevant here, it isn't the point. The author lists everything a parent would typically state and many of which are really great. Then, he draws a house and writes - Greatness, character, freedoms and inner needs. When I read inner needs - bells and whistles went off like sirens, as I remembered Psychology 101 and Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. I also thought about he wording of 'transferring a heart of faith'. A parent can

not transfer a heart of faith. A parent can live a life of love based on their response to God calling them and children can witness that. Only God can give a child a heart or any person a heart of faith.

While grace is a topic the church as a whole needs to address, this book is not the one to do that. It gives parents another check list based on humanistic points and takes the fullness of God's grace and the work he does in our hearts and places it fully on a concept that appears to be taken from Maslow.

There are some good comments in this book and some biblical statements. But the meat, the condescending tone and the 'house of cards' in my opinion is not one parents should strive for. There are other books that are written for parents to help them understand grace and share it with their children. As this author states - He and his wife were able to have a grace based home, while remaining authoritative... so perhaps this may be the book for some parents who desire that lifestyle.

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### **Arwen says**

I've enjoyed this book a lot. Having heard about Grace based-parenting I was afraid it was going to be a lot of feel good, gushy type stuff. It was actually filled with pretty good advice. (Though he could have spent less time on the problems. I think if you are reading the book you already know the problems church children's ministries are facing. You pick up a book like this to find answers not to delve into the problems more.) That aside, once he gets going with the napkin illustration the book is pretty good. And I like that he gives you lot of resources at the end because this is a book about ideas to apply those ideas you will need resources and curriculum.

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### **Aaron says**

A very good, practical book. The crux of the book is that churches and families must see themselves as partners in raising healthy, spiritual families centered around grace and love.

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### **Brandon says**

Not a lot new, but worth reading. Good information on an important topic.

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### **Brent Soderstrum says**

I received this book free from the publisher in exchange for my review.

Dr. Kimmel uses this book to discuss how a church and a family must work together to raise children in the faith. Too many families either try to do it solo or think all they have to do is drop their kids off at the church and their job is done. Kimmel covers the application of family ministry by both the Church and the individual family and they really are the same. It comes down to grace and trying to apply it the way Jesus did in his teachings.

At times I felt this book was really geared toward Church leaders but that falls into Kimmel's theory that the tactics and strategies are really the same for the Church and the individual family.

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### **Richard LeMons says**

This book is a decent enough book. Easy and quick read. There isn't any new information presented that hasn't been shared before.

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### **Darrin Niday says**

I thought Dr. Kimmel did a good job laying out this topic, I thought he used good resources to back his position. Keeping church and family together is a great idea, and one I try to practice with my family.

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### **Nathan Schneider says**

Kimmel evaluates current models of family ministry and presents an informal and transferable (relevant to both churches and families) model based on grace. His approach focuses on matters of the heart, including character transformation and the emphasis on servanthood/ humility. I enjoyed the read.

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### **Legacy Dad says**

I got an advanced copy of this book from Tim and just finished reading it. I am very impressed! Tim manages to address the current parenting issues, lay out a long term biblical strategy and provide solid resources and solutions for both parents and churches in about 130 pages.

Connecting Church and Home clearly identifies the current challenges for both parents and youth ministries in reaching the Millennial Generation. Tim then unpacks a concise, biblical parenting philosophy that can be used from birth to college and readily available resources for parents and churches to use at each step of the developmental and parenting process. If you're a parent looking for a biblical roadmap or a simple compass check along the way, Connecting Church and Home will empower you with the practical advice and guidance you need. If you're a pastor or layperson working in your churches youth or family ministry, Connecting Church and Home will equip you with a strategic game plan to synch your ministry efforts with the biblical foundations being established in the home. I highly recommend this book to all parents, pastors and those working in the youth and children's ministry

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### **J says**

I won this in a Goodreads Giveaway.

Some nice ideas on connecting the church and the home.

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