

**April 7, 2019**  
La Jolla Christian Fellowship  
**ACCELERATE : Beyond The Starting Blocks of Faith**  
Ep.4 **Abba Father: The Authoritative Parent**  
Pastor Harry Wilson

**Psalm 119:1-16**

*Blessed are those whose way is blameless,  
who walk in the law of the Lord!*

<sup>2</sup> *Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,  
who seek him with their whole heart,  
<sup>3</sup> who also do no wrong,  
but walk in his ways!*

<sup>4</sup> *You have commanded your precepts  
to be kept diligently.*

<sup>5</sup> *Oh that my ways may be steadfast  
in keeping your statutes!*

<sup>6</sup> *Then I shall not be put to shame,  
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.*

<sup>7</sup> *I will praise you with an upright heart,  
when I learn your righteous rules.*

<sup>8</sup> *I will keep your statutes;  
do not utterly forsake me!*

<sup>9</sup> *How can a young man keep his way pure?  
By guarding it according to your word.*

<sup>10</sup> *With my whole heart I seek you;  
let me not wander from your commandments!*

<sup>11</sup> *I have stored up your word in my heart,  
that I might not sin against you.*

<sup>12</sup> *Blessed are you, O Lord;  
teach me your statutes!*

<sup>13</sup> *With my lips I declare  
all the rules of your mouth.*

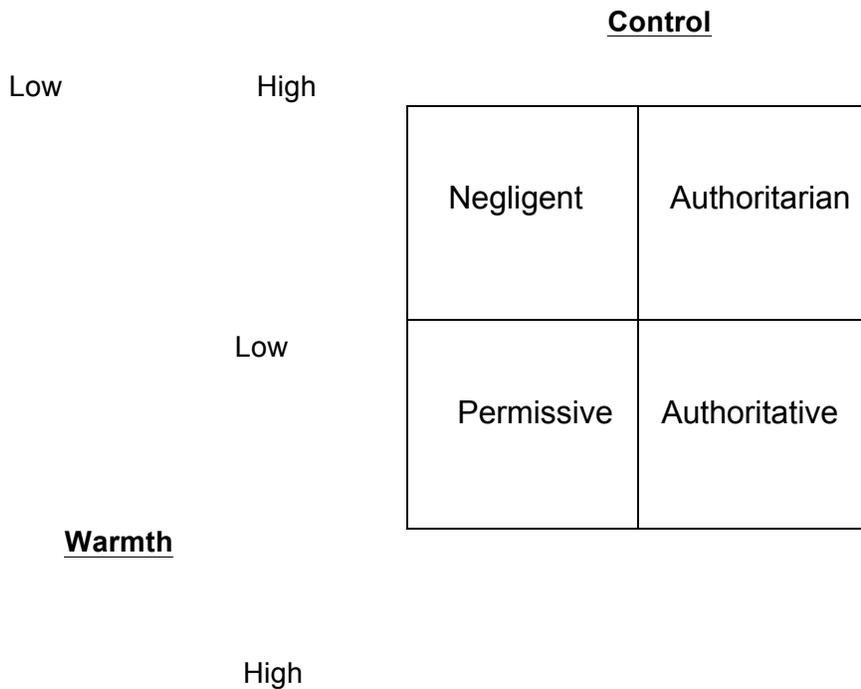
<sup>14</sup> *In the way of your testimonies I delight  
as much as in all riches.*

<sup>15</sup> *I will meditate on your precepts  
and fix my eyes on your ways.*

<sup>16</sup> *I will delight in your statutes;  
I will not forget your word.*

Initial reaction to the scripture (one word/phrase): \_\_\_\_\_

## **Baumrind Parenting Styles**



### **Vs. 1-8: The Law**

- We tend to project the parenting style of our own parents onto God.
- The desire for permissive spirituality is an accelerating cultural trend, in which, standards and accountability are casualties. The result is the rise of the “spiritual, but not religious.”

### **Vs. 8-11: Guard Your Way**

- It is the heart that governs our way, and Christ is the most excellent ambition for the heart.
- The ways of the heart are fickle, flickering between content and contemptuous. Though, love is rarely on short supply, wisdom is always needed to direct its aim.
- Human beings are full of good intentions. But without wisdom, good intentions are easily misguided.

### **Vs. 12-16: Hope & Joy**

- Hope is not passive. We do not hope in idleness but actively participate in the work of hope by attending to the ways of God in scripture and in prayer.
- Hope is a prerequisite to joy.

*“Joy, which was the small publicity of the pagan, is the gigantic secret of the Christian.”*

*- G. K. Chesterton*

### **Steps Beyond the Starting Blocks**

- ❖ Engage God’s word in a personal dialogue. Ask Questions. Find resources.
- ❖ Develop a new spiritual habit. The best spiritual habit is the one you do.