

Shepherding a Child's Heart
by Tedd Tripp

I read this book all the way back in 2001. I remember really loving it at the time. Back then I was in the habit of writing short reviews of the books I read, for just such a purpose as this – I can remind myself of what I did or didn't like after years of forgetting! So here's what I wrote some nine years ago...

While it should be said that Tripp is not a terribly brilliant author, his message is superb. This is the first book I've read on the subject that I've not had to sift through the modern psychological (and often flawed) perspective to find the truth. Some, mostly notably Dobson's *The Strong Willed Child*, had much more good than bad. But this is the first I've read that seems to flow directly from Scripture. Perhaps most modern readers will declare this text to be outdated and unrealistic, but in the hands of new parents - who've not already made years of mistakes - this text has a powerful message.

At the center of his teaching is the Biblical concept of action flowing from the heart. Tripp therefore admonishes parents to be always looking at the heart condition, not just the actions of the child. Doing so will lead to the ultimate goal of parenting as Tripp sees it -- raising children who bring glory to God. It's hard to argue with a parenting goal like that! This book is a must read for new or aspiring parents.

Nathan

