

# Are We There Yet?

## Part 6

### “God’s Design for Parenting” (Why Parents Can Win)

**God created parents and children with natural tendencies. Parents should lead as God designed because these tendencies are real and powerful and filled with potential.**

1. The Powerful Tendency of **Imitation**. Kids imitate their parents.
2. The Powerful Tendency to want to **Prepare** our children for life. Parents can prevent many problems.
3. The Powerful Tendency of leaving a **Legacy**. Parents are remembered for something.

### God’s Design for Parents & Kids in Relationship

#### **Psalms 127:1 (NIV)**

Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.

*God’s primary purpose for parents is to produce children that have relationship with Him.*

- Children are a gift from God

#### **Psalms 127:3-5 (NIV)**

Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one’s youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate.

- Good kids vs. godly kids

#### **Exodus 20:5&6 (NIV)**

I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments.

- Kids who pass on a knowledge and trust of God

#### **Psalms 78:5-7 (NIV)**

He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

*God places parents in charge.*

#### **Deut. 6:5-9 (NIV)**

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. *Impress them on your children.* Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

*God’s design places fathers, mothers and children in unique roles*

#### **Fathers**

##### **Ephesians 6:4 (NIV)**

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

##### **Colossians 3:21 (NIV)**

Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

#### **Mothers**

##### **1 Thessalonians 2:7& 8 (NIV)**

But we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well,

## Children

### Ephesians 6:1 (NIV)

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

## Three Powerful Tendencies in God's Design

### 1. The Powerful Tendency of Imitation

- God's design for the family mimics the relationship we see in the Trinity.
- When our relationship with our family reflects the Trinity relationship, we have all the blessing designed by God for the relationship.

#### Proverbs 17:6 (NIV)

Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.

- We are to be imitators of God.

#### Hebrews 12:5-6 (NIV)

And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, <sup>6</sup>because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

### 2. The Powerful Tendency wants to Prepare our kids for life

Much of the crisis that families experience can be minimized and managed.

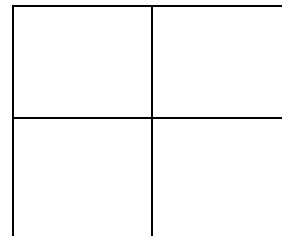
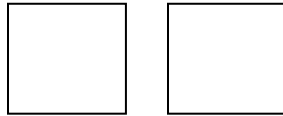
"There are no guarantees, but the odds are in your favor."

- The family is under attack.

Philosopher Richard Rorty argued that secular professors in the universities ought "to arrange things so that students who enter as bigoted, homophobic religious fundamentalists will leave college with views more like our own." Rorty noted that students are fortunate to find themselves under the control "of people like me, and to have escaped the grip of their frightening, vicious, dangerous parents." Indeed, parents who send their children to college should recognize that as professors "we are going to go right on trying to discredit you in the eyes of your children, trying to strip your fundamentalist religious community of dignity, trying to make your views seem silly rather than discussable." - **adapted from *What's So Great About Christianity* by Dinesh D'Souza**

## Spiritual Impact

### God's Design for Blessing



- Either the parents or the kids can remove the blessing of God's design for a relationship by not doing what God has said.
    - By doing my part in the relationship I am not ensuring that my kids will follow Christ, but by abdicating that role I guarantee that the relationship will be less than what God intended.
- ### 3. The Powerful Tendency of leaving a Legacy

- Have you made disciples?

#### Proverbs 17:6 (NIV)

Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.

#### Proverbs 20:7 (NIV)

The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him.

#### Proverbs 31:27-29 (NIV)

She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."

And as I hung up the phone, it occurred to me,  
He'd grown up just like me. My boy was just like me.

- *Cats in the Cradle* by Harry Chapin

Quotations marked NIV are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright 1978 by New York International Bible Society.