

Are We There Yet?

Part 7

God's Design for "How to Parent"

Review:

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.

Introduction:

Divine Suggestions or Ten Commandments? (Deuteronomy 5)

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 (NLT)

"These are the commands, decrees, and regulations that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you. You must obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy, ²and you and your children and grandchildren must fear the LORD your God as long as you live. If you obey all his decrees and commands, you will enjoy a long life. ³Listen closely, Israel, and be careful to obey. Then all will go well with you, and you will have many children in the land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you. ⁴"Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. ⁵And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. ⁶And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. ⁷Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. ⁸Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. ⁹Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates".

The right destination or target: Godly offspring—God-loving offspring!

- Not well behaved children, but children that love God
- Some teach obedience because they fear God
- Some teach obedience because they love God

How Do I Raise God's Children?

Psalms 127:3 (NLT)

Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him.

Deuteronomy 7:6 (NIV)

For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

Matthew 25:14 (NIV)

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them".

1st Discipleship starts with you! (See Deuteronomy 6:6)

- **It begins with you as a person—on your heart— your personal relationship**
 - Some say I don't know what to teach them. Teach them what God has taught and is teaching you.
 - You can't give what you don't have.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NLT)

"But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.

2nd Discipleship begins with your co-leader. You're a disciple making team.

- **It's essential to have a spiritual partnership with your spouse—prayer and direction**

Malachi 2:13-15 (NIV)

Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. You ask, "Why?" It is

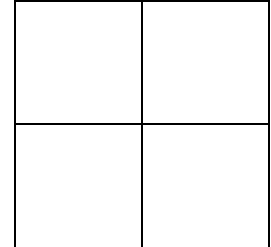
because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? **Because he was seeking godly offspring.** So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.

3rd Raising godly children assumes relationship exists

- It assumes you spend time with your kids
- Your job is to help your children be all that God made them to be
- There is formal and informal teaching

Ephesians 6:4 (NLT)

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.



4th Discipleship is a family and community project- (see Deuteronomy 6:1-2)

- Parents are never done. Grandparents are essential to the process of discipleship.
- The church plays a part in the lives of your kids.
- Get wise council.

Psalm 78:5-8 (NLT)

For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, ⁶so the next generation might know them— even the children not yet born— and they in turn will teach their own children. ⁷So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands. ⁸Then they will not be like their ancestors— stubborn, rebellious, and unfaithful, refusing to give their hearts to God.

Proverbs 11:14 (NIV)

For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure.

If a child is a gift from God then we must care for that gift appropriately

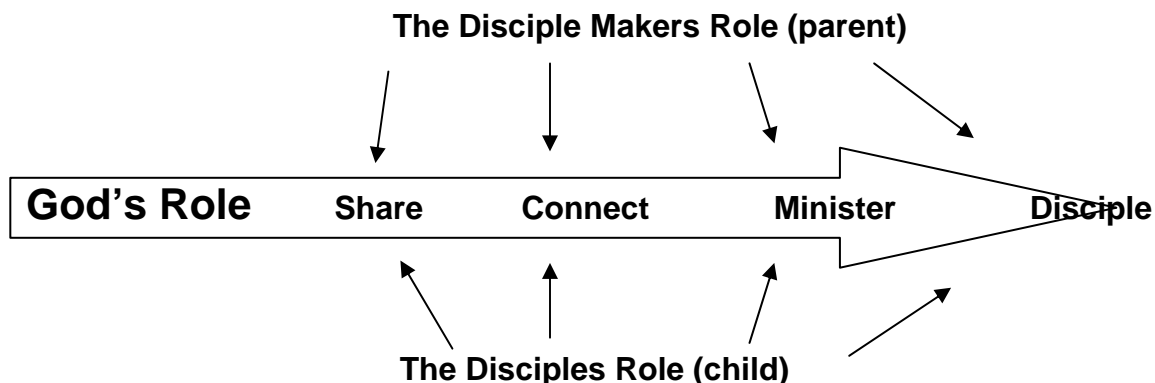
Luke 12:43-48 (NLT)

If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. ⁴⁴I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. ⁴⁵But what if the servant thinks, 'My master won't be back for a while,' and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? ⁴⁶The master will return unannounced and unexpected, and he will cut the servant in pieces and banish him with the unfaithful. ⁴⁷And a servant who knows what the master wants, but isn't prepared and doesn't carry out those instructions, will be severely punished. ⁴⁸But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

Doing your part:

Proverbs 22:6 (NLT)

Teach your children to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain upon it.



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