

How the World Trains Your Kids to Fail

Don't let your children believe these Failure Philosophies:

I. Chase Your Dreams

- Here's one simple grid through which to push all your dreams: Will God be pleased by every facet of my dream? Are there things I'll have to do, places I'll have to go, or things I'll have to say that will ask me to sin against Him? Will my dream put me in a place where I'll forget Him? Miley wanted to be famous. She wanted to be popular in the world's eyes. But you can't be that and glorify God . . . ever.
- Ecclesiastes 11:9 says, *"Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things."*
- The danger with any "Follow Your Heart" philosophy is that we're chasing after our dreams instead of God's dreams. Psalm 37:4 tells us that only when we *"Delight . . . in the Lord [that] He will give [us] the desires of [our] hearts."*

II. Care Too Much about What People Think

- The first way to fail God is to idolize my own dreams above His. The second way is to care more about what other people think than what He thinks. This is, of course, ironic because if my dreams are more important than the God of the universe, why do I care so much about what puny mortals think? Thankfully no one ever said failing God had to make sense.
- When we fear men over God, we invite destruction into our lives.
- Proverbs 29:2 tells us, *"The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted."*
- Matthew 10:28 goes further to say, *"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."* God's opinion of our children needs to matter to them infinitely more than their peers.
- We need to help our children not care what the world thinks when it comes to their fidelity to God. Yes, we need to care very much when people point out pride and disobedience and impatience and foolishness and a lack of love, but when people want to tear us down for doing right . . . we really don't need to care. In John chapter 15, during some of Christ's final admonitions to his disciples he used the words hate/hates/hated 8 times as he describes how the world is going to treat us. And He starts that section off by saying *"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you."*

III. Value Your Friends Over Your Parents

- Having friends is great, but when my friends mean more to me than my parents I'm likely surrounding myself with the wrong advisers. Too many young people have terrible relationships with mom and dad. But your kids need to accept that if there were a set of parents better for them than the ones we have, God would have given your kids to them.

- Children spend too much time running away from their God-given authority, but if a set of parents loves God and loves their children, that child would be a fool to seek counsel and guidance from their friends before running to mom and dad.
- In I Kings 12:6-8 we learn about a young king who took bad advice from his friends. *“King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his father Solomon while he was still alive, saying, “How do you counsel me to answer this people?” . . . But he forsook the counsel of the elders which they had given him, and consulted with the young men who grew up with him and served him. Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the forced labor, and all Israel stoned him to death. And King Rehoboam made haste to mount his chariot to flee to Jerusalem. So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.”*

IV. Handle Anxiety by Turning to Music

- We’re emotional beings. This is a gift from God when we understand and respond to our emotions in a Christ-honoring way. In fact, we’re going to discuss our kids’ emotions in great detail in February, but for now we need to understand that when we idolize our feelings by putting their importance over God-ordained sources of peace and encouragement, we’re destined to failure.
- Three times throughout the song, the one thing that helped Miley get control over her fears was music. This sounds an awful lot like what we talked about on Tuesday in episode 23. When we idolize our emotions, it’s easy to turn to those mediums that will give us a superficial jolt of fun-feeling. It’s easy to drown our sadness in adrenaline, our guilt in sensuality, and our fear in fun, but those are not God’s ways of responding to life’s difficulties.
- Philippians 4:6-7 is an amazing passage concerning fear because it says *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

V. Idolize Celebrities

- So, Miley’s chasing a dream that doesn’t glorify God, cares too much what people think about her, seemingly ignores mom and dad, and handles her anxiety by turning to emotion-drenched placebos . . . orchestrated by Jay-Z and Brittany Spears? Do we see the problem here? Let’s discuss Jay-Z and Brittany Spears for a second. These individuals have bad credit at the bank of Good Advice and yet Miss Cyrus turns to them before eternal Truth? Both these performers have practically ruined their personal and professional lives and yet Miley wants to follow their guidance?
- Proverbs 13:20 says, *“He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm.”*