

The Best Way to Set Up Your Kids for Failure

I. A Biblical Example of Destructive Parenting

- Joshua 9, 23:11-13; Judges 2:1-15
- The Jews did not seek God before making a covenant with the Gibeonites.
- The Jews did not break their sinful covenant with the Gibeonites in order to obey God.
- The Jews continued not to obey God with other people groups for various bad reasons.
- The Jews did not lead their children to God as they should.

II. A Modern Example of Destructive Parenting

- **Dads and moms are not making God the content, method, motivation, or power of their parenting.**
 - Deuteronomy 6; Ephesians 6; Romans 6:15
 - Too many parents are not Deuteronomy 6 and Ephesians 6 parents. Instead of parenting their kids in the High Spiritual Expectations of God's Word for the sole honor and glory of their Savior and in the power of the Holy Spirit, their parenting is selfish, worldly, and weak.
 - A corollary to this point is that many parents are not only not being the influence they should be, they also aren't introducing their kids to other right influences like the local Body of Believers.
 - If you want to set your kids up for failure just like the ancient Israelites did, don't be the influence God commands you to be and don't introduce other godly influences into their lives. That right there is guaranteed to set up your kids for failure.
- **Dads and moms are deliberately not protecting their kids from or preparing their kids to overcome wicked influences.**
 - Those influences come in through what the parent allows their kids to watch, read, and listen to. Their music, their movies, their shows are daily injecting the most vile, anti-God influences our generation has ever seen.
 - But then there's social media and the broader internet as a whole. And parents are literally giving their kids unfettered, unfiltered, unaccountable access to all of it.
 - *But not only that*, parents send their children out into the world to be actively proselytized by them. It happens every day in public schools. It happens every day in professing Christian schools that are no different from the public schools. It even happens in the curriculum used in many homeschools! And this same thing happens every day in the colleges and universities just like it happens in the high schools and preschools.
 - But it doesn't stop there. Many professing Christians allow their kids to have bad friends and — worse yet — they allow them to marry people they shouldn't!
 - By not removing the pagans from the land, the Jews socialized together and intermarried, and — just as God had promised — those influences drew away the sinful hearts that didn't know God or weren't mature enough to reject the lies.
 - The spiritual warfare that was waging in the hearts of every one of them was ignored and unchecked and often the parents ended up actually fighting on the enemy's side.
 - If you have been cavalier about protecting and preparing your kids, there are answers. There is hope. You *can do* what's necessary to undo the permission you've given to many — if not most — of the negative influences you've allowed into your kids' lives.
 - But you have to really want it. You have to see how destructive it is. You have to be grieved over the fact that you actually allowed the enemy into your home, and you have to fight back.

- **Dads and moms are *ignorantly* not protecting their kids from or preparing their kids to overcome wicked influences.** Many parents do a good job being a sound influence in their families. Many don't deliberately invite godless influences into your kids' lives or fail to teach your children how to respond to obvious lies. But far too many of us make a lot of uninformed, foolish, naive, and ignorant choices that set our kids up for failure just as much as the other bad parenting choices do
 - **We don't seek the Lord's wisdom.**
 - The Jews could have asked God directly and gotten a straight answer. He would have revealed the lie of the Gibeonites, but they didn't seek Him until it was too late.
 - How often do we make decisions for our kids without opening God's Word, without seeking out the wisdom in a multitude of counselors?
 - This world has lied to us that we have everything we need in and of ourselves to parent our kids. But we don't! We need God first and foremost, and we need those who are going to keep us accountable to God.
 - **We don't take time to research.**
 - If we just took a little bit of time to truly research, consider, and investigate, God's people wouldn't so nonchalantly toss their kids into situations where negative influences abound.
 - Let me give you some examples: I already mentioned school and entertainment, but there's also sleepovers, extracurricular camps/clubs/classes, letting your kids frequent the skatepark or local hangout without supervision, and even work
 - **We don't change the trajectory.**
 - A child is sent to a public school or allowed to listen to a certain type of music or watch a certain show or get an after-school job or signed up for the sports team, and before long the parents either encounter a podcast like this or — God forbid — they start to see the negative consequences of the influences they've allowed into their kids lives . . . and now they have another decision to make.
 - But many parents can't bring themselves to pull the kids from the school or the team or the job or the friends or the club or from the influence of the music.
 - And even though they now understand how diabolical it all is and how easily swayed their kids are by the influences and how unprepared they are to stand for Christ . . . the parents continue to allow it! And why does this happen?
 - The parent's failure to change the trajectory generally comes down to fear or immaturity.
 - Sometimes telling kids they can't listen to their worldly music any more is only going to invite rebellion, chaos, and meltdowns into the home because there is no Christ-honoring structure and framework in their lives. But *we don't have to be fearful parents.*
 - Sometimes it's simple immaturity on our part.
 - Sometimes that immaturity believes the lies of the world over the truth of God. They believe that it would be damaging to the child or their relationship if they went back on their word. And it's that immaturity that will continue to allow their kids to be influenced by factors they are ill-equipped to overcome.
 - Some parents are simply comfortable with their life choices, but they're not comfortable with the effect it's having on their kids, yet the maturity it would take to reevaluate the situation and make life-altering, new decisions is just "too hard."