

## *Resetting Our Parenting Paradigm* God's Purpose in Parenting

- I. Parenting Was God's Idea.
  - A. God given mandate. (Gen. 1:28)
  - B. Before the Fall (Gen. 1:26-28)
  - C. Even Jesus had Earthly parents. (Luke 2:51,52)

### **Application:**

Parenting isn't part of the curse or some afterthought on God's part. It has been part of His plan since the creation of the world. It was even part of His plan for Salvation history.

- II. God has a purpose for parenting.
    - A. What are some purposes people have for parenting?
      - Looks (beautiful, handsome, attractive, etc)
      - Intelligence (good grades, good college)
      - Talents/abilities (musical, sports, artistic)
      - They have more than I had (clothes, toys, stuff, stuff, stuff)
      - They turn out better than me (don't repeat my mistakes)
      - Don't embarrass me
      - Good/well behaved
      - Salvation
    - B. God's Purpose as He Parents
      1. God was the First Parent. (Gen 1:26,27)
        - His original purpose was for his children to reflect His image.
      2. God is the Last Parent.
        1. John 1:12 => In Christ we are God's children
        2. Romans 8:14,15 => Through the Spirit we have an intimate relationship with God as Father.
        3. Romans 8:28,29 => God's purpose is still the same. That we should be like Christ, His one and only unique Son. To be like Christ is to be like the Father (John 14:9).
        4. Hebrews 12:6-10 => God desires us to be "partakers of His holiness."
- 3. God's Purpose as He Parents is that His children would be godly.**

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## C. God's Purpose for our Parenting: Psalm 127 (A Psalm of Solomon)

1. God is to be the source of our parenting. (vs. 1 – 2)
  - Where do you go for guidance and direction in parenting?
    1. The latest articles in parenting magazines?
    2. Secular parenting books?
    3. “Christian” psychology parenting books?
  - Does your parenting bring with it sleep deprivation? Or can you rest peacefully in the Lord?
    - Not because of sickness, feedings, etc.
    - Because of sorrow over your children's choices or worry over their future choices.
2. We are stewards of our children. (vs. 3)
  - Our children were given to us by God.
    - Lit. Children are the LORD's possession. The fruit of the womb is His gift.
  - It is not for us to decide the goal or purpose for their lives and/or our parenting.
  - This is serious business. If God were to miraculously give you a precious artifact from the Temple and audibly tell you to protect and take care of it until He comes back to get it, you would do everything to make sure you follow His wishes perfectly.
    - For anyone who has experienced childbirth, there is no other explanation for it, other than a miraculous gift from God. Remember being in the delivery room? You may be able to take credit for some of the hard work of labor (ladies more than men) or some of the preparation, but you are speechless when you see the little one for the first time! Only God can do that!
3. Like arrows, we only have them for awhile. (vs. 4)
  - Our Children are to leave us to go places and further than we could ever go ourselves. (**Independent from us.**)
  - They should leave following our example of living **dependent on God.** (vs. 1 & 2)
4. They are to be live life above reproach. (vs. 5)
  - “They shall not be ashamed.” They have nothing for which to be ashamed. It is not that they did not/do not sin, but they take **responsibility** when they do, confess and repent.
  - Even their enemies will respect them.

**God's Purpose for Parenting: That our children would grow to be godly. => Independent from us, dependent on God and responsible for their actions.**