

The Difference Between Loving Your Family + Idolizing Your Family

Somer Phoebe

All quotes are from Somer Phoebe unless otherwise noted.

God is never done working. He will not let you down.

You can't love your children too much. You can only fear your children too much.

#1: You control nothing

You are not in control.

You can do everything right, but still not get the result that you think you should get. That is the definition of complete surrender.

Just like the results of your work, the results of your children are up to God.

Your children fall under the authority of God.

God love your children more than you do.

God loves our children so much we don't have to worry what He's going to do with them.

Ask God to give your children wisdom.

Proverbs are a concise statement that expresses a general truth about the patterns of life.

Proverbs cannot be mistaken for promises.

Wisdom accepts that not everything is going to play out exactly how you think it will.

God has a plan that is so much bigger and detailed than we could fathom.

I want to raise a Job - a child who loves God regardless of how much they have or don't have.

We cannot take the credit or the blame in parenting.

All I can do is walk in the ways of the Lord. He is good, He loves me and He loves my child.

#2: the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom

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The Wisdom Literature

- Proverbs 1:7, 2:1-5
- Ecclesiastes 12:13
- Job 28:28

Do you fear God? Does your household fear God?

If you fear something, your children fear something.

If you fear the Lord, they will see that and learn that.

The fear of God is not like fear of anything else. Fear of the Lord is beautiful.

When you rightly see the holiness of God, you will be humbled. When you understand the power and righteousness of God, you will fear Him. The fear of God is reverence and awe.

When your heart is humble toward the Lord, your heart will be humble towards everything else.

A side effect of fearing the Lord is humility.

The fear of God is louder than the ignoring of God.

Nobody can ignore God louder than you can fear God.

If you are fearing God, it will outshine, out-do, out prove the rest of the world.

The fear of God sends you to God, it doesn't make you run from Him.

Judges 14 - Sampson

Weak parents raised a weak son. And a weak son became a weak husband.

Weakness comes from ourselves. Our only strength is in our God.

You have to be strong when it's not easy to be strong.

Go all in on discipline. We are all born with a spirit of sin.

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As parents, we are to show our kids how to use their gifts for the glory of God and not for themselves.

#3: idolization begets extremes

It's hard to not prioritize your children over the Lord.

When God isn't the most important thing, neither are your kids.

Get to know God in such a real way that you can't help but put Him above everyone else.

In the absence of the fear of God, idolization creeps in.

When we idolize something, we do it to the extreme.

Concern becomes panic.

Disappointment becomes anger. Proudness becomes rooted pride.

We cannot parent out of extremes or else we will raise children who only know extremes.

When we try to get in the way of what God is doing in our children's lives, we are putting distance between our kids and their God.

Rest in the fact that you don't control anything.

Idolizing your kids looks like fearing your kids.

We have to work with excellence in the right place.

If your faith is in your ability, then your faith is too small.

We don't know the end of their story, even as their parents.

God doesn't need our help getting glorified. He lets us glorify Him.

When we idolize our kids, we are getting sucked into culture.

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Importance is God and everything else is not.

You cannot be afraid to do something that is counter-cultural.

If you raise them in a house that goes against the world, your kids won't feel weird about it.

Mark 9:23-25 - Help my unbelief!

Do not panic, pray. Do not lecture, listen.

Open-handed parenting is the only way to do it.

Your children are important, but God is more important.