

PARENTING FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

Where is our Nation? We are plagued by issues such as: national debt, abortion, crowded jails, violent crime, wars, divorce, unemployment, homosexuality, parent's rights, evolution, child abuse, redefining marriage

What about Churches? We continue to lose many of the youth raised in our churches to the world, even those who claim to be saved.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Psalm 33:12 - *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!"*

Malachi 4:4-6 - *"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."*

PRESSING THE RESET BUTTON

Romans 12:2 - *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*

Malachi 1:11 – God desires His name to be great among the nations

1 Corinthians 10:31 - *"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."*

This broad statement includes everything in the Christian life, including how you raise your children.

WHAT IS GLORY AND HOW DO I GLORIFY GOD?

Glory – heavy, weighty, honorable, worthy of respect and praise

Gravitas - weight, seriousness, dignity, importance – a similar meaning to glory

God's glory radiates from the sum of His perfections.

Exodus 34:29 – Moses' face shone as light before the Israelites

Exodus 33:18-20; 34:5-8 – God shared some of His glory by revealing Himself; Moses worshipped. Why did Moses' face glow? This was the second time Moses came down the mountain. His face glowed because God had revealed His glory to Moses. God's glory illuminated Moses' face.

To glorify God is to experience His excellencies and radiate them in heart, in word, and in deed.

"God is most fully glorified in me when I am most fully satisfied in Him" – John Piper

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THE INDESTRUCTIBLE CONNECTION BETWEEN LOVING & GLORIFYING GOD

John 15:8–10 - *“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.”*

Loving God **brings** glory to God

HOPE FOR A NATION

Deuteronomy 6:1-6 – The charge to the parents of Israel

Context: 2nd address of Moses to Israel in the last months of his life, spanning chapters 5-26. He begins chapter five by reciting the 10 commandments and the experience of Israel as they received this truth.

v1-3 – The fate of a nation hung upon their proper understanding & adherence to the truth God was revealing to them.

v4 – “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!”

This is predicated upon Israel’s experience in **Deut. 5:22-24**

v5-6 – The prerequisite to parenting for the glory of God

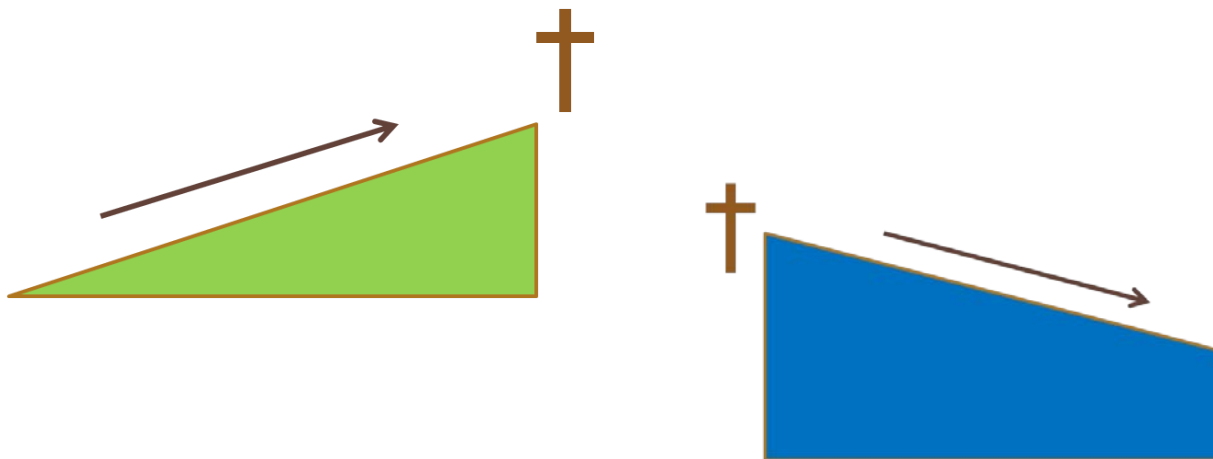
You must first **know** Him and then **love** Him with all of your being.

THE CHRISTIAN RAMP

Romans 8:28–29 - *“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”*

You are either growing **brighter** or **fading** at any point in time. There is no **equilibrium** in Christianity.

Draw the Christian Ramp below:

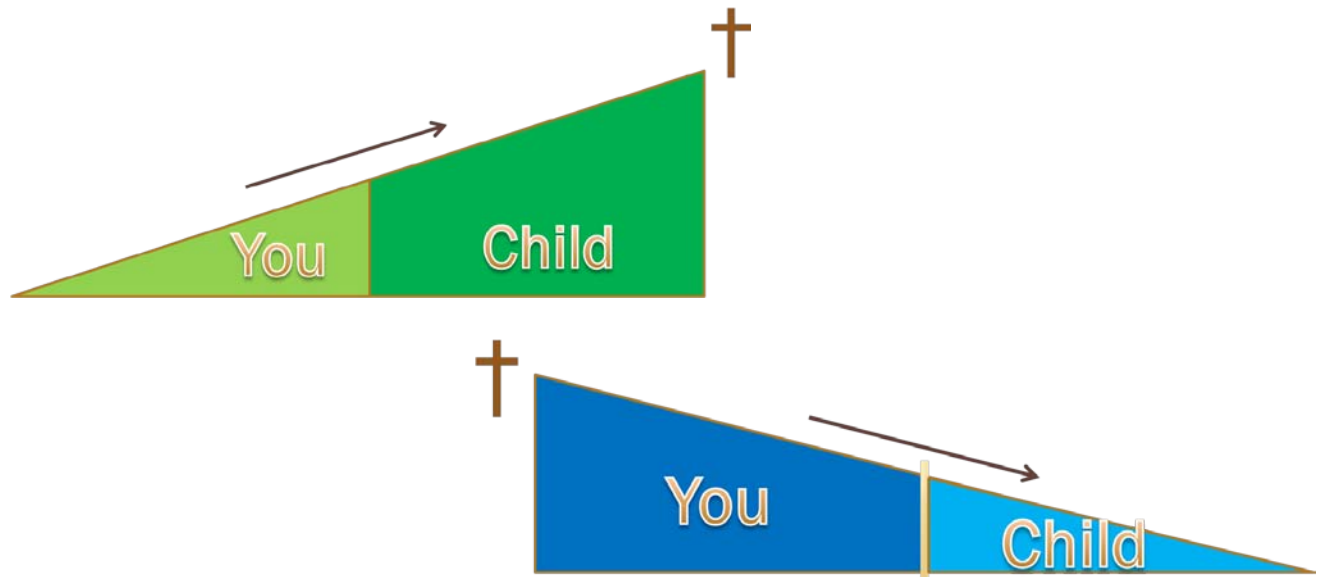


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Proverbs 22:6 - "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Just because there are **exceptions**, remember that most of us will fall under this principle.

Draw the Extended Christian Ramp below:



When you apply this to parenting, you see that it is not the level of **maturity** you have attained but the **slope** of your walk that most drastically influences them.

A SERIOUS WARNING

When does a blessing become a curse? **A blessing becomes a curse when it becomes more important than the Blesser.**

Deuteronomy 6:10-15 – A stern warning to Israel

The danger was that their attention would be diverted from God by their **blessings**.

Compare the Israelites' response to the glory of God versus the Promised Land:

- Deuteronomy 5:22-27 – **Israel was frightened by God's glory and did not want to seek Him more**
- Judges 2:6-10 – **The next generation grew up without knowing about the Lord.**

Who paid the price? **Their children and grandchildren paid the price.**

Humans have the uncanny ability to make an **idol** out of anything.

The challenge to parenting is not our **inability** or lack of knowledge (God can make up for that); it is that we will fall into **idolatry** and neglect our God, thereby neglecting the true **needs** of our children.