

When Kids Become Your God

PART I: Why God made you a parent

Being a parent is a gift – God is giving us stewardship of some of His creation

God's good gifts can become idols

The *brazen serpent in the wilderness* (Numbers 21:6-9, John 3:15, 2 Kings 18:4)

An idol is anything that displaces God in our affections

God's Word warns us against idolatry (Exodus 20:3-4)

Children are at the same time, hated and idols in our culture

Infanticide (Abortion) rates reveal our culture's hatred of children

Societal behaviors reveal our idolatry of children

God gave you children in order to pass worship from one generation to the next (Psalm 78:4-7)

Worship of children is a complete and utter reversal of God's design for parents

PART II: The exclusivity of following Jesus prohibits idolizing family

The timid son who wants to follow Jesus after first burying his father (Matthew 8:21-22)

Are we really to hate our family? (Luke 14:25-26, Matthew 10:37)

Do not postpone your discipleship due to pressing human allegiances

PART III: How can we recognize if we are idolizing our children?

The subtle beginning: Idolatry is an insidious forgery of parental love

Two marks that you may be idolizing your children

1) catering to our children without restraint – failure to discipline

Parents are charged to discipline their children (Hebrews 12:7-11)

Make worship a priority for your family

- a. Give them Bible
- b. Sing about Jesus
- c. Wrap your week around Sunday corporate worship

2) criticizing our children for not living up to our standard

Wanting to create them in *our* image

Micromanaging their lives exasperates our children (Colossians 3:21)

Allow them to struggle and then demonstrate how Jesus helps their weakness

Trace your emotional responses to your children's failures or successes

Comparing our parenting or our children to other reveals idolatry

3) How controlled are you by what happens to your children?

My desire to protect my children must yield to my desire to see them grow into the man or woman God wants them to be

Hannah's example in trusting God with her son Samuel

PART IV: Replace your idols with grace and truth

It brings humility to your parenting

It will help your children identify their idols

It changes your parenting goals to align with God's purpose for making you a parent

"The enjoyment of [God] is our highest happiness, and is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of earthly friends, are but shadows; but God is the substance. These are but scattered beams, but God is the sun. These are but streams. But God is the ocean." ~ Jonathan Edwards