

Daring To Be The Adults We Want Our Children To Be



The summer months here in the Northwest have always been for me a time of vacations, hiking, BBQ's, water fights, shorts with flip flops and a time to be more "outdoorsy". At Genesis during the summer the ministry wheels seem to slow down with a reduced number of clients seeking counseling, the teaching opportunities at Moody end as students disappear for the summer, the absence of classes such as Spiritual Formation and Courageous Parenting, all taking a break for a three-month period of time.

We understand however that life's difficulties do not take a summer off! In fact, they multiply and morph into very tenacious and energy sucking patterns of internal belief. Remember that song in the 60's by Nate King Cole with the lyrics? "Roll out those lazy hazy crazy days of summer; those days of soda, of pretzels and beer", a stanza that seems to make the summer months into something idyllic. But even the most memorable and fun summers do not diminish the struggles each of us have. Summers do not postpone the pain and heartache we share. In my work with parents in the Courageous Parenting ministry one of the beliefs I encounter frequently is that parents will be able to control their child's life and make it a success. Read this excerpt about parents and Millennials from the National Review magazine that gives insight into this belief: "The upper-middle class American style of parenting is creating a generation of children who are trained from birth to believe three things: first, that the central goals of life are success and emotional well-being; second, that the child's definitions of success and emotional well-being are authoritative; and third, that parents and other authority figures exist to facilitate the child's desires". Could it be that a parent can become a child's chief enabler?

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During the summer months I will be developing some further thinking and added curriculum based on the above article for the next Courageous Parenting class that will begin on September 27th. The leaders and I will be in dialogue about these changes in culture as each new generation develops and how these trends affect our parenting. The 12-week class will provide parents not with "tools" that will help them fix their children, but their own "heart work" where long held beliefs of their own story and generation have a chance to surface and be re-examined.

We welcome you to inquire about this incredibly influential class that is based on the Scriptures and competent authors who have devoted their lives to supporting parents, which is a lifelong endeavor indeed!

Dennis