

Intentional Parenting

Intentional parenting is parenting not left to chance. It is parenting done by intent or design. It is deliberate, purposeful, premeditated, calculated and planned.

Godly Parenting does not happen by chance; just you cannot disciple anyone by chance.

Albert Einstein was spot on with his famous quote "God does not play dice with the universe." God was very deliberate in designing and creating the universe. That is why it all works in perfect sync. If God was so intentional in making the physical world that is temporal, how much more would He require us to be intentional in our discipleship that has eternal consequence!!! It simply cannot be left to chance.

We must be **conscious, continuous, and consistent in our parenting.**

Establishing core values and coherent vision for our family are foundational to successful parenting.

Here are 7 vital principles for intentional parenting:

1. Start by abiding in Christ.

You can only disciple your children to the extent you look to God for your own life. "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:4-5 NKJV) Lead from the front. "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately

forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does." (James 1:22-25 NKJV)

2. Take ownership of the process.

Our Lord Jesus Christ commands - "Now wherever you go, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And teach them to faithfully follow all that I have commanded you. And never forget that I am with you every day, even to the completion of this age." (Matthew 28:19-20 TPT)

Fathers are especially charged with this responsibility in Ephesians 6:4 - "And, you fathers, do not make your children angry: but give them training in the teaching and fear of the Lord."

3. Be authentic with your children in your dealings.

Being humble and honest about your personal life and history will be very helpful in modelling the Christian life that daily presses forward and upwards in Christ. Let your children know you are a fellow pilgrim. Let your humanity not be an excuse for carnality, but an opportunity to model the truly yielded life to Christ.

4. Engage in conversations, not lectures.

"Stop trying to 'be God' to your children, instead reflect His character." - Kent.

Remember that more is caught than taught.

Good or bad, we are the first reflection of God to their children. Aspire to say to your children the words of Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:1 "Follow my example, just as I follow the example of

Intentional Parenting

Christ.”

5. Be a student of your children and the culture they are growing in.

Make it a priority to know your children’s heart. You must commit to spending life building time with your children. The more fruitful time you spend with your children the easier it becomes to peel back layers. Ability to ask good questions is a vital tool in your intentional parenting kit.

6. Apply biblical wisdom to real life.

The Bible provides the answers to all life’s questions. "Every Scripture has been inspired by the Holy Spirit, the breath of God. It will empower you by its instruction and correction, giving you the strength to take the right direction and lead you deeper into the path of godliness.

Then you will be God’s servant, fully mature and perfectly prepared to fulfil

any assignment God gives you.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17 TPT) “...And they will truly know Christ. Not only is h the key to God’s mystery, but all wisdom and knowledge are hidden away in him.” (Colossians 2:2-3 CEV)

7. Be confident in Christ that chose you for this divine assignment.

He is able to complete this work in you. "For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.” (Colossians 2:9-10 NLT)

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.” (1Th 5:23-24 NKJV).

Chuks Aniereobi