

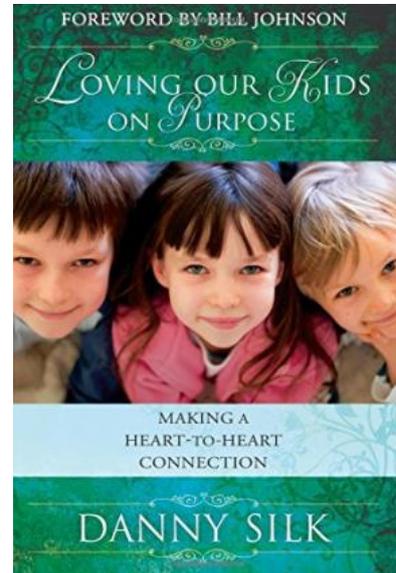
Loving our Kids on Purpose – a parent’s perspective

I was fortunate enough to be given a set of the Danny Silk, Loving our Kids on purpose DVD series. It has taken me, ashamed as I am to admit, several months to unwrap this gift.

I think that I do parenting quite well. My kids can hold it together in public and are good kids but I do find myself repeating and shouting too much!

Danny Silk is on the senior management team at the Bethel Church in Redding California and Jesus Culture in Sacramento. I started to watch this DVD and with some hesitation - "I don't really feel like it, I am busy, I don't have time" were all the words flying around in my head.

Wow! What a journey I have been on in the last 90 minutes. Danny discusses the parenting style of many of us. We are influenced by our own parents; when we hit a resistance from our kids we reach into our parenting "bag of tricks" and often pull out our own parents. Have you heard yourself? Oh my!! My mother's words HAVE come out of my mouth!



But before you start scolding yourself think of this - before we had our own filters, our own ability to think, we learned how to parent by the way our parents parented us! Some used the "wooden spoon" threat to get their point across, others used it to "break our determination".

Fear based parenting is basically saying - I will hurt you until you yield control to me. Where does this end? What does this type of parenting and attitude promote?

Our thought processes as a child in this type of parenting style becomes "who is going to punish me if I do this?"

Parenting in this fear filled style can ultimately mean that freedom is granted (albeit reluctantly) to the angry teenager.

Getting children to think for themselves and think "how is that going to work out if I do..." is a far nicer way to get children to self-govern. It's a much less angry way to parent our beautiful children.

Danny's journey of parenting was realising that it was not his job to CONTROL his children but rather his job as a parent was to teach his children to CONTROL THEMSELVES and to manage themselves no matter what is going on around them.

Danny Silk looks seriously at the relationship of fear/love and freedom/control. Working with the REAL heart to heart relationship that we have with our children.

It might be time to consider revising your parenting skills with one of Danny's DVDs or the LOKOP (Loving our Kids on Purpose) courses that we facilitate at Parklands. If you have already been to a course - well done! Keep working on loving those kids and check out the resources in student services to help you on your journey!!

Angela Jackman

