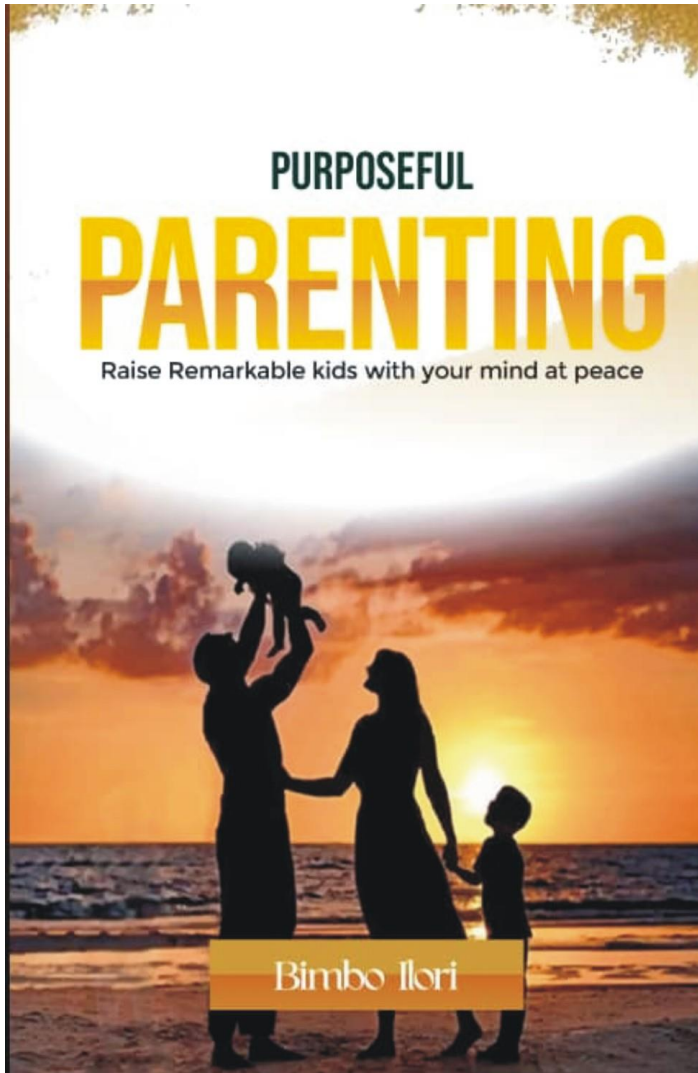


PURPOSEFUL

PARENTING

Raise Remarkable kids with your mind at peace



Bimbo Ilori

Purposeful Parenting

Raise Remarkable Kids, With Your Mind at Peace.

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All scripture reference in this book is the Authorized King James Version unless otherwise specified.

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120 Characteristics of Faith

Managing Difficult Relationships

Dispatched Decision

Dedication

To every parent that loves to raise remarkable kids,
and to posterity.

Acknowledgement

I have been privileged to work with different people at different stages of my life and ministry. I am indebted to my sister Christy Vodzie for the comfort and support she brings to the work. My gratitude to my children and everyone who helped me to learn parenting.

Author's Note

Throughout this book, you'll encounter stories and scenarios designed to reflect the realities of the concepts shared.

Please note that all names used in contemporary illustrations are either entirely fictional or have been altered to preserve privacy. While the lessons are real and inspired by true-to-life patterns, any resemblance to actual persons, living or deceased, is purely coincidental and unintentional.

These examples are used to deepen understanding and offer relatable reflections without compromising anyone's personal journey.

Thank you for reading with empathy and wisdom.

With love and purpose,

Bimbo Ilori

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Introduction

Parenting is a team task that is chiefly coordinated by two persons who have the direct oversight for the child.

It's a life long service, with a communal and more recently, global involvement.

This is consistent with the norm given that the nurturing a baby needs from birth to adulthood cannot be solely met by the parents.

There are quite a number of persons in the course of the life of the child up to maturity that would have been cofactors and determinants in setting up the direction for that life.

This “other people factor” could be positively or negatively impactful.

Similarly, the contributions of the direct parents, which can be harnessed.

This book sets out to navigate, minimize, and possibly eliminate the undeserving and avoidable mistakes in raising remarkable kids, by bringing to fore what the Pitfalls are, and how to overcome them.

Highlighting the necessities of Purposeful Parenting for a more robust family experience.

I have been inclined to address parenting and parental issues because of my background.

Firstly, as a parent for close to three decades and from my proprietary service of about two decades over (Kingswit Schools), dealing with several kids and diverse parents.

In my counselling capacities I have encountered the contents in this book as a certified guidance counsellor and been a part of the solutions to the ones I was privileged to serve.

It's my conviction that Purposeful Parenting will impact Parenting approaches and improve the family and societal terrains they matter.

Enjoy a transformational read, steady application and spread the message!

1

The Parent and Parenting

Parenting is all the significant role in nurturing, guiding, and supporting a child's physical, emotional, and psychological development on a non-negotiable commitment.

These roles could be served by a persona that fits the parenting job description.

Such a person would be referred to as the parent.

Nonetheless, the concept of a parent can be encompassing of non-biological parents, sometimes referred to as Pseudo-parents or Locus-Parentis:

A parent can be found within any of the underlisted categories of people identified:

1. Biological parent: A mother or father who gave birth to or fathered a child.
2. Adoptive parent: Anyone who has adopted a child and assumes the responsibilities and rights of a biological parent.

3. Foster parent: A person who provides care and support for a child who is unable to live with their biological parents.
4. Step-parent: A person who is married to a biological parent and assumes parental responsibilities.
5. Guardian: A person who has been appointed by a recognised authority to care for a child and make decisions on their behalf.
6. Caregivers: Family members, relatives, or other individuals who provide care and support for a child.
7. Role models: People who serve as positive influences and mentors in a child's life.
8. Teachers/Instructors: Professionals who invest time and skills in the child to nurture and mold towards targeted goals.
9. Support systems: Networks of people who provide emotional, financial, or practical support for a child and their family.

Parents influence their children's development and personality, overtly or obviously.

Parents are a child's most influential role model. We spend more time with our children than any other adult.

Expectedly, we ought to commit to discovering who and what the child should turn out to be and the plans to attain it.

Parents should be present, purposeful, modeling to them virtues and values.

2

Parental Pitfalls -1

Requisite parenting is a standard, and it is a constant across continents, territories and locations; however, the parent is always the variable.

Differences are evident in how the parent expresses parenting, be it as a broken vessel, wounded and hurting, healed and intact, or yet, nonchalant.

This chapter highlights some of the different types of parenting mistakes that exist and you might be able to identify where you are or which one or combinations of the Pitfalls you have been inclined towards so that you can scrutinize your choices.

The goal is to take a cue as we move to the requisite parenting. This in no way seeks to give knocks or condemnation but for improvement.

Moreover, no one gets it hundred percent foolproof but reasonably well to get by and excel over time.

Welcome to the parenting enrolment, and congratulations for choosing and aiming to do well by reading this book!

Just as those who may fit into the parenting roles vary, so do the expressions of parenting. Below are some forms of parenting mistakes that serve to teach us how not to parent versus what to choose or do.

Parenting Expressions/Pitfalls To Avoid

A. Probability Parenting

Some parents are very interested in the development of their children and God bless their hearts.

Probability is a game or mathematics of uncertainty, so they don't know and aren't sure what direction or path to pave for the child.

Therefore, it becomes a blanket or trial approach, where every gift development approach applies to all children alike.

This parenting approach makes decisions based on probabilities, rather than certainties.

There are several instances or scenarios of siblings around the headstart training age, all learning to play the keyboard, all going for music lessons, all attending swimming etc.

Eventually, in this type of situation, later in life, as the children mature, they begin to make choices that leave their investments hanging or irrelevant.

This is because, as kids, they were not able to confront the status quo and say they just wanted to do this and not that.

The particular gifting of the child is what should have been focused on. Even the instructor would have been better or more effective in dealing with the real child, or the particular one that needs the training.

Embrace:

Rather than making a divested effort, only for the one who might have truly stuck with it to be neglected - lacking the attention needed to thrive and being ill-prepared for excellence due to divided focus. “ Too many cooks spoil the broth”.

It is better to concentrate fully on a few, or even one, giving such the dedication and nurturing required to truly flourish.

Moreover, even with the gifts come other factors such as pace and trend that shape career preferences.

While the efforts of the parent in this case, as earlier mentioned, are commendable, nonetheless, there's a need for proper assessment and engagement of correct knowledge to make a data-driven decision. The right choice is critical as such will condition or set trajectories for the child.

B. Buck Passing Parenting

Sarah and her 16-year-old son, Alex, were always at odds. Alex was a bright kid, but he struggled in school and often found himself in trouble for misbehaving in class.

Sarah's response to Alex's struggles was always to blame someone or something else. She would complain to the teachers, saying they weren't doing enough to support Alex. She would blame the school system, saying it was flawed and didn't cater to Alex's needs.

But the truth was, Alex was struggling because he wasn't putting in the effort. He was lazy and easily distracted, and Sarah's constant excuses and blame-shifting were enabling his behaviour.

One day, Alex got into trouble at school for cheating on a test. The teacher called Sarah to discuss the incident, and Sarah immediately went into buck-passing mode.

"This is ridiculous," Sarah said. "The teacher is just picking on Alex. He's a great kid, and he would never cheat."

However, the teacher explained that Alex had been caught red-handed and that he had a history of cheating in class. Sarah was forced to confront the reality of her son's behaviour, and she realized that she had been enabling him for far too long.

With the teacher's help, Sarah started to take a more active role in addressing Alex's behaviour. She set clear boundaries and expectations, and she encouraged Alex to take responsibility for his actions.

It wasn't easy, and there were many times when Alex pushed back against his mother's new found assertiveness. But slowly, Alex began to change. He started to take his school work more seriously, and he began to develop better study habits.

Sarah realized that she had been doing Alex a disservice by making excuses for him and blaming others for his behaviour. By taking a step back and letting Alex take responsibility for his actions, Sarah was able to help her son develop the skills and confidence he needed to succeed.

As Sarah reflected on her journey, she realized that buck-passing parenting had been a coping mechanism for her anxiety and fear of failure.

However, by confronting her flaws and taking a more active role in addressing Alex's behaviour, Sarah was able to break free from the cycle of buck-passing parenting and develop a more positive, supportive relationship with her son.

Buck-passing parenting occurs when parents avoid taking responsibility for their children's actions, behaviours, or decisions. Instead, they shift the blame or responsibility to someone or something else, such as:

- The child: Blaming the child for their own mistakes or behaviors, rather than taking responsibility for guiding and teaching them.
- The school or teachers: Blaming the school or teachers for their child's poor academic performance or behavioural issues rather than working with them to find solutions.
- The other parent: Blaming the other parent for their child's problems or behaviours rather than working together to find solutions.
- Society or circumstances: Blaming societal pressures, poverty, or other circumstances for their child's behaviours or decisions rather than taking responsibility for guiding and teaching them.

Consequences of Buck-passing:

- Lack of personal responsibility: Children of buck-passing parents may struggle with taking personal responsibility for their actions and decisions.
- Lack of problem-solving: Buck-passing parents often fail to work with their children to find solutions to problems or challenges.
- Entitlement: Buck-passing parenting can lead to an entitled attitude in children, who may expect others to take responsibility for their problems.
- Poor problem-solving skills: Children of buck-passing parents may struggle with problem-solving and conflict resolution, as they have not been encouraged to take responsibility for their actions, nor have they seen the parents demonstrate the skills readily.
- Strained relationships: Buck-passing parenting can lead to strained relationships between parents and children, as well as between children and their peers.

Tackling Buck-passing Parenting:

1. Identify the buck-passing parenting behaviours and their effects on your life.

2. Take responsibility for your child's actions and behaviours, and work with them to find solutions to problems.
3. Encourage your child to take personal responsibility for their actions and decisions.
4. Model healthy problem-solving skills for your child, such as identifying problems, brainstorming solutions, and taking action.
5. Seek support from trusted friends, family members, or a therapist to help you develop healthier parenting habits.

C. Parenting by Dispute

When one of the parents leads the child on a particular course choice, sometimes, out of frustration.

A situation where the more dominant parent takes the decision, and the other concurs for "peace's sake".

There are instances in homes where one of the spouses always makes decisions about the kids without proper deliberations or accord.

Sometimes, this leads to verbal rebuts, and a party is convinced about a choice to make, and the other says no!

It could be the choice of school, home or even course of study, discipline, or anything that needs a joint decision.

Parenting by dispute reveals the homes where decisions are made based on disagreements, arguments, or power struggles between parents or caregivers. This can lead to inconsistent discipline, conflicting messages, and a lack of clear boundaries.

This Parenting malady causes a lot of damage to the home structure.

In most cases, there's a need for serious intervention through prayers and counselling.

From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? James 4:1

Power struggle in the home makes the child a pawn in the bid of parents to assert control or dominance.

Disputing sends unclear boundaries leading to confusion and uncertainty for the children.

This can impact the child's emotional stability negatively leading to anxiety, stress and even mood swings.

Embrace:

Effective communication listening to each other's perspectives and working towards a unified approach.

Establish clear boundaries and consequences, ensuring consistency and fairness.

Have principles that guide and govern the finality of decisions, especially in faith-based homes; the word of God should be the final authority.

D. Competitive Parenting (Beat the Others syndrome)

Competitive parenting refers to a phenomenon where parents engage in competitive behaviors, often fueled by societal pressure, social media, or personal insecurities. This competition can manifest in various aspects of parenting, such as:

1. **Academic achievements:** Comparing children's grades, test scores, or academic awards.
2. **Extracurricular activities:** Competing to enrol children in prestigious sports teams, music programs, or other activities.
3. **Material possessions:** Comparing the quality or quantity of toys, clothes, or other material goods.
4. **Parenting styles:** Judging or comparing parenting methods, such as discipline, feeding, or sleep training.

This Parenting approach leads to

Increased stress and anxiety.

Tension and conflict between parents, as well as between parents and their children.

Unrealistic expectations of the children lead to disappointment, frustration, and low self-esteem.

Choose To:

Break free from competitive Parenting tendencies.

Focus on your child's unique journey and celebrate your child's strengths, interests, and accomplishments.

E. Distractive Parenting

Distractive Parenting involves being frequently distracted, often due to technology, work, or other factors, leading to a lack of focus, attention, and engagement with their children.

This is characterized by trips away from home.

Excessive screen time with gadgets even when with the kids.

Lack of eye contact: Parents fail to maintain eye contact with their children, leading to feelings of neglect.

Not responsive to children's requests in good time, often forgetful of their requests.

Embrace:

Set boundaries with technology and have screen-free zones and times, such as during meals or at the dining table..

Prioritize quality time schedules and avoid any interference.

F. Critical Parenting

Critical Parenting occurs where there's excessive criticism, negativity, and disapproval. This approach can be damaging to a child's self-esteem, confidence, and emotional well-being.

This style is characterised by

1. Excessive criticism: Parents frequently criticize their child's actions, appearance, or accomplishments.
2. Negative labelling: Parents use negative labels or names to describe their child, such as "lazy" or "careless."
3. High expectations: Parents have unrealistically high expectations for their child's performance or behaviour.

4. Lack of praise or encouragement: Parents rarely offer genuine praise or encouragement, making their child feel unappreciated or unvalued.

Consequences of Critical Parenting:

*Low self-esteem and negative self-talk, self-doubt in the children.

* Children feel anxious or stressed due to the constant criticism and pressure to perform.

* Children become defensive or rebellious in response to constant criticism.

*Children may struggle to manage their emotions, leading to mood swings, tantrums, or aggressive behaviour.

Embrace:

Self-reflection: Recognize your critical tendencies and acknowledge the impact on your child.

Focus on positive reinforcement*: Offer genuine praise and encouragement to foster a positive and supportive environment.

Set realistic expectations*: Establish achievable goals and expectations, taking into account your child's unique strengths, weaknesses, and needs. Seek support if you are unable to adjust.

G. Divisive Parenting

Tehi and her husband, Ade, had always been proud of their three children, Aby, Ayo, and their youngest sibling, who was still in elementary school. However, as the children grew older, Tehi found herself drawn to Aby, who shared her love of fashion and design.

Tehi would often take Aby on special shopping trips, attend her school fashion shows, and praise her designs. Meanwhile, Ayo felt increasingly left out and unappreciated. Ayo loved sports and music, but Tehi rarely attended his games or concerts.

Ade, who worked long hours, didn't notice the subtle favouritism at first. But as the children grew older, he began to see the effects of Tehi's behaviour. Ayo became increasingly resentful towards Aby, who he felt was receiving unfair treatment.

One day, the tension boiled over into a heated argument between Aby and Ayo. Tehi was shocked and saddened by the conflict, but she didn't realize her role in creating the divide.

Ade sat Tehi down and explained how her favouritism was affecting the children. Tehi was defensive at first, but as she reflected on her behaviour, she realized that Ade was right.

With Ade's support, Tehi made a conscious effort to change her behaviour. She started attending Ayo's

sports games and music concerts, praising his accomplishments, and spending quality time with each child individually.

It took time, but the siblings slowly began to heal and rebuild their relationships. They learned that being a good parent meant being fair, consistent, and supportive of all her children, not just the ones who shared her interests.

As the family sat down to dinner one evening, Tehi looked around the table and felt a sense of pride and gratitude. She had learned a valuable lesson about the dangers of divisive parenting and the importance of nurturing positive relationships between her children.

Divisive parenting fosters intentional or unintentional divisions, conflicts, or rivalries that are engendered between the children or between their children and others. This can be done through various means, such as:

- Comparing and labelling: Constantly comparing children to each other, labelling them as "the smart one" or "the athletic one," and creating unrealistic expectations.
- Pitting children against each other: Encouraging competition and rivalry between children, often by offering rewards or praise for one child's accomplishments at the expense of another.

- Taking sides: Consistently taking one child's side in conflicts or disputes, rather than remaining neutral and helping children resolve their differences.
- Favoritism: Showing blatant favouritism towards one child, providing them with more attention, privileges, or rewards than their siblings.
- Encouraging gossip or tattling: Encouraging children to gossip or tattle about each other, creating an atmosphere of distrust and hostility.

Effects of Divisive Parenting:

1. Sibling rivalry rises leading to conflict, resentment, and long-term damage to relationships.
2. Children who are constantly compared, labelled, or pitted against each other may develop low self-esteem, feeling they can never measure up.
3. Children who grow up in a divisive parenting environment may struggle with conflict resolution, as they may not have learned healthy communication and problem-solving skills.

4. Strained relationships between parents and children, as well as between children and their peers.
5. Negative impact on mental health: Divisive parenting can have a negative impact on children's mental health, increasing the risk of anxiety, depression, and other emotional challenges.

What God's Word says about divisions:

[17] Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

[18] For they that are such serve, not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. Romans 16:17-18

Tackle Divisive Parenting:

- Recognize the pattern: Identify the divisive parenting behaviours and their effects on your life.
- Practice empathy and understanding: Make an effort to understand and empathize with each child's unique needs, feelings, and perspectives.

- Encourage positive relationships: Foster positive relationships between children by encouraging teamwork, cooperation, and mutual respect.
- Avoid comparisons and labels: Refrain from comparing or labelling children, instead focusing on their strengths, talents, and accomplishments.
- Model healthy conflict resolution: Model healthy conflict resolution skills for your children, teaching them how to communicate effectively, resolve disputes, and maintain positive relationships.

Parenting Pitfalls -2

A. Disengaged Parenting

Disengaged Parenting is characterized by a lack of involvement, interest, or emotional connection with one's child. This can manifest in various ways, including physical absence, emotional unavailability, or a general lack of engagement in a child's life.

Traits of Disengaged Parenting include:

1. Physical absence: Parents are frequently absent or unavailable due to work, personal interests, or other commitments.
2. Emotional unavailability: Parents are unresponsive, unemotional, or unsupportive, making it difficult for children to connect with them.
3. Lack of interest: Parents show little interest in their child's life, activities, or concerns.

Consequences of Disengaged Parenting

- Negative self-talk, self-doubt, and low self-confidence due to the lack of emotional support and validation.

Emotional difficulties: Children may struggle with emotional regulation,

*Children may have difficulty forming and maintaining healthy relationships due to the lack of emotional connection with their parents.

To Tackle Disengagement

- Take responsibility for making changes, by acknowledging what is happening and seeking redress.
- Prioritize quality time and attention with your child,
- Schedule planned and intentional engagement by showing up for the kid.
- Seek support as needed.

B. Humiliating Parenting

Humiliating Parenting style involves using humiliation, shame, or belittling to control or discipline children. This approach can be damaging to a child's self-esteem, emotional well-being, and relationships.

Traits of Humiliating Parenting:

1. Verbal abuse: Parents use hurtful, demeaning, or insulting language to criticize or belittle their children.
2. Public shaming: Parents humiliate their children in public, in front of peers or others, to shame or embarrass them.
3. Emotional manipulation: Parents use guilt, anger, or self-pity to control their child's behaviour or emotions.
4. Belittling accomplishments by minimising or dismissing their child's achievements or efforts, making them feel insignificant.

Consequences of Humiliating Parenting

1. Children may develop negative self-talk, self-doubt, and low self-confidence due to the constant belittling and humiliation.
2. Children may experience increased anxiety, depression, or other mental health issues due to the emotional distress caused by humiliating parenting.
3. This makes kids struggle to manage their emotions, leading to mood swings, tantrums, or aggressive behaviour.

4. It leads to strained relationships and difficulty forming and maintaining healthy relationships due to the negative impact of humiliating parenting on their self-esteem and emotional well-being.

To Tackle Humiliating Parenting:

Acknowledge the damaging effects of humiliating parenting and take responsibility for changing your approach.

Treat your child with kindness, respect, and understanding, validating their feelings and emotions.

Implement positive discipline techniques that focus on teaching and guiding your child, rather than punishing or belittling them.

Consider seeking the help of a therapist or counsellor to work through your emotional issues and develop healthier parenting strategies.

C. Defensive Parenting

Defensive Parenting reveals a strong need to defend, justify, or rationalize one's parenting decisions, often in response to perceived criticism or judgment from others.

Evidence of Defensive Parenting

1. Lack of accountability: Children may not develop a sense of personal responsibility for their actions, as parents often shift blame or make excuses.
2. Difficulty with self-reflection: Children may struggle with self-reflection and self-improvement, as parents often deny or downplay problems.
3. Increased anxiety and stress: Children may experience increased anxiety and stress due to the tension and conflict that often accompanies defensive parenting.
4. Strained relationships: Children may have difficulty forming and maintaining healthy relationships due to the defensive and dismissive behaviour modelled by their parents.

To Tackle Defensive Parenting:

1. Recognize your defensiveness and take responsibility for your parenting decisions.
2. Listen carefully to others' concerns and feedback, rather than becoming defensive or dismissive.
3. Work collaboratively with others to find solutions to problems, rather than shifting blame or making excuses.
4. Prioritize your child's needs and well-being above your own need to defend or justify your

D. Indulgence Parenting

Indulgence Parenting is characterized by excessive leniency, permissiveness, and indulgence. Parents who practice indulgent parenting often prioritize their child's short-term happiness and comfort over teaching life skills, discipline, and responsibility.

Consequences of Indulgence:

- *Overindulgence: Parents provide excessive material possessions, privileges, and treats.
- *Lack of boundaries: Parents fail to establish clear rules, consequences, and expectations.
- *Permissive discipline: Parents rarely discipline or set limits, fearing it may upset or disappoint their child.
 - Overprotection: Parents excessively shield their children from failure, disappointment, or responsibility.
 - Children may develop an inflated sense of entitlement, expecting special treatment and automatic compliance.
- * Lack of self-regulation: Children tend to struggle with self-control, self-motivation, and self-discipline.
 - Children may have difficulty taking responsibility for their actions, as they are often shielded from consequences.

To Tackle Indulgence Parenting:

1. Set clear rules, consequences, and expectations to help your child develop self-regulation skills.
2. Implement positive discipline techniques that focus on teaching and guiding your child, rather than simply punishing or indulging them.
3. Gradually give your child more responsibilities and hold them accountable for their actions.
4. Demonstrate healthy behaviours, such as self-regulation, responsibility, and accountability, to show your child the value of these traits.

E. Controlling Parenting

Controlling parenting is a parenting style characterized by excessive control, restriction, and manipulation of a child's behaviour, emotions, and decisions. Controlling parents often prioritize their own needs, desires, and expectations over their child's autonomy, individuality, and well-being.

Common characteristics of controlling parents:-

1. Overly restrictive: Imposing excessive rules, regulations, and restrictions on the child's behaviour, activities, and choices.
2. Lack of autonomy: Failing to give the child opportunities to make decisions, take risks, and develop problem-solving skills.

3. Emotional manipulation: Using guilt, anger, self-pity, or other emotions to control the child's behaviour and decisions.
4. Constant criticism: Frequently criticizing the child's performance, appearance, or behaviour, which can erode their self-esteem and confidence.
5. Micromanaging: Excessively monitoring and controlling the child's daily activities, decisions, and interactions.
6. Dismissing emotions: Disregarding or minimizing the child's feelings, needs, and concerns.

Consequences of Controlling Parenting:

- Low self-esteem: Controlling parenting can lead to low self-esteem, as children may feel they are never good enough.
- Rebellion: Children may rebel against their parents' control, leading to power struggles and conflict.
- Difficulty with decision-making: Children may struggle with decision-making and problem-solving, as they have not been given the autonomy to develop these skills.
- Strained relationships: Controlling parenting can lead to strained relationships between parents and children, as well as between children and their peers.

Reverse the trend by these actions;

1. Recognize the pattern: Identify the controlling behaviours and their effects on your life.
2. Seek support: Reach out to trusted friends, family members, or a therapist for guidance and encouragement.
3. Set boundaries: Establish clear boundaries with your parents to assert your autonomy and independence.
4. Practice self-care: Prioritize self-care and engage in activities that promote relaxation, stress reduction, and self-esteem.
5. Develop problem-solving skills: Develop problem-solving skills and learn to make decisions independently.

F. Discontented Parenting

Rayna had always dreamed of being a perfect mother. She wanted her children to excel academically, athletically, and socially. She spent hours researching the best parenting techniques, attending parenting workshops, and joining online parenting forums.

However, as her children grew older, Rayna began to feel increasingly dissatisfied with their performance. Her son, Jack, struggled with math, and her daughter, Lily, didn't make the school soccer team.

Rayna's disappointment and frustration simmered just below the surface. She constantly criticized

Jack's math homework, telling him he wasn't trying hard enough. She questioned Lily's decision to join the school choir instead of the soccer team, implying that she wasn't good enough.

As time passed, Jack and Lily began to feel the weight of their mother's discontent. They felt like they could never measure up to her expectations. Jack started to dread math homework, and Lily began to question her abilities.

One day, Rayna's husband, John, sat her down and had a heart-to-heart conversation with her. He gently pointed out how her constant criticism and disappointment were affecting their children. He encouraged Rayna to focus on her children's strengths and accomplishments, rather than their weaknesses.

Rayna was taken aback. She had never realized the impact her words and actions were having on her children. She began to make a conscious effort to change her behaviour. She started praising Jack's efforts in math, even when he struggled. She attended Lily's choir performances and beamed with pride.

Slowly but surely, the atmosphere in the household began to shift. Jack and Lily started to feel more confident and self-assured. They began to enjoy spending time with their mother, who was now more supportive and encouraging.

Rayna realized that she had been so focused on her children's flaws that she had forgotten to appreciate

their unique strengths and talents. She learned that being a good parent wasn't about creating perfect children, but about nurturing and supporting them as they grew and developed.

As Rayna looked back on her journey, she was grateful for the wake-up call. She had learned that discontented parenting wasn't just about her children's behaviour; it was about her own emotions, needs, and expectations. By recognizing and addressing her issues, Rayna was able to break free from the cycle of discontented parenting and cultivate a more positive, supportive relationship with her children.

Discontented parenting is characterized by: a pervasive sense of dissatisfaction, unhappiness, and frustration with one's child, parenting, or family life. Discontented parents often express negative emotions, criticism, and disappointment, which can have a profound impact on their child's emotional well-being, self-esteem, and development.

Sometimes, this discontent could be because a parent wants their kid to outperform another child. Thereby complaining about their child's behaviour, achievements, or choices.

Frequently criticize their child, focusing on their flaws and shortcomings.

Have unrealistically high expectations for their child's academic, athletic, or personal achievements.

Use negative labels or put-downs to describe their child, such as "lazy," "ungrateful," or "unmotivated."

Struggle to provide emotional support, validation, and encouragement to their child.

Consequences of discontented parenting:

- Low self-esteem: Children of discontented parents may develop low self-esteem, as they constantly receive negative feedback and criticism.
- Anxiety and stress: Discontented parenting can create a high-stress environment, leading to anxiety and burnout for both parents and children.
- Rebellion: Children may rebel against their parents' constant criticism and dissatisfaction, leading to power struggles and conflict.
- Difficulty with emotional regulation: Children of discontented parents may struggle with emotional regulation, as they may not have learned healthy emotional expression and management.
- Strained relationships: Discontented parenting can lead to strained relationships between parents and children, as well as between children and their peers.

To Tackle Discontentment:

1. Recognize the pattern: Identify the discontented parenting behaviours and their effects on your life.
2. Seek support: Reach out to trusted friends, family members, or a therapist for guidance and encouragement.
3. Practice self-reflection: Reflect on your own emotions, needs, and expectations to better understand the root causes of your discontent.
4. Focus on positive aspects: Make a conscious effort to focus on your child's strengths, accomplishments, and positive qualities.
5. Cultivate emotional intelligence: Develop emotional intelligence by learning to recognize, understand, and manage your own emotions, as well as those of your child.

G. Dishonest Parenting

Early or later in the day comes a call that is disruptive to your schedule, and you choose to pick up and respond to the caller that you are at a work site, whereas you are inside your home.

Such actions and utterances are underserving to the children and, doubtless, other misrepresentations that your kids might witness.

Eventually, this will be carried on by direct delegation instructing the kid to speak to guests or persons that you are not home while you are, Or you will be attending a function you do not intend to honour.

These falsehoods are vested and rooted in a parent's selfishness, making the one who should be protective go on reversed roles.

[17] Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. [18] As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

[19] And for their sakes, I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. John 17:17-19

Dishonesty is first modelled and eventually passed on to the kids.

Dishonest parenting is characterized by a lack of transparency, integrity, and trustworthiness. Dishonest parents engage in behaviours such as:

Lying: Telling lies to people and even children, either to avoid dealing with uncomfortable situations or to manipulate their behaviour.

Withholding information: Failing to provide children with accurate and complete information leads to confusion, mistrust, and uncertainty.

Breaking promises: Making promises to children and then failing to follow through, eroding trust and damaging relationships.

Gaslighting: Denying or distorting reality, making children question their perceptions, memories, or sanity.

"The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy" Proverbs 12:22

Consequences of Dishonest Parenting:

- Eroded trust: Children may struggle to trust their parents, leading to difficulties in forming healthy relationships.
- Dishonest children: The kids take the traits forward, exhibiting them at school among friends and at home with family.
- Low self-esteem: Children may develop low self-esteem, as they may feel they are not worthy of honesty and respect.
- Difficulty with emotional regulation: Children may struggle with emotional regulation, as they may not have learned healthy emotional expression and management.
- Strained relationships: Dishonest parenting can lead to strained relationships between parents and children, as well as between children and their peers.

To Tackle Dishonesty in Parenting:

1. Recognize the pattern: Identify dishonest parenting behaviours and their effects on your life.
2. Seek support: Reach out to trusted friends, family members, or a therapist for guidance and encouragement.
 1. Practice self-reflection: Reflect on your own emotions, needs, and expectations to better understand the root causes of your dishonest parenting.
 2. Develop emotional intelligence: Cultivate emotional intelligence by learning to recognize, understand, and manage your own emotions, as well as those of your child.
 3. Let the word of God rule your heart and home. When we live as being accountable to God, and responsible to raise Godly children, it settles all moral and spiritual integrity.

We have gone through various parenting styles that we can identify with at different points in the course of our parenting journey.

As aforesaid, the aim is to highlight possible factors for what might have been and redress. Or, at best, for knowledge to avoid those pitfalls.

In the next chapter, we delve into the expected parenting style, which is purposeful parenting.

4

Purposeful Parenting

Purposeful parenting involves being intentional, deliberate, and mindful in your parenting decisions and actions. It requires a deep understanding of your child's needs, your values, and perceived goals for your child and the world around you.

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

When the requisite understanding is obtained the parent works to fulfill a mandate. You are armed on purpose.

The execution of purpose, like every intentional venture, requires a plan of purpose.

Parenting Plan

A parenting plan amounts to having a frame of how you want to raise the child. Taking a cue from the concept of construction.

[3]Through wisdom is an house builded; And by understanding it is established.

[4] And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled With all precious and pleasant riches. Proverbs 24:4

Here are quick guide questions and answers for the concept of a Parenting Plan.

- How do you want the child to turn out?
You have to use the mind of imagination and fast forward to at least five years, what kind of child/children do you want to have raised?

Then, in the next multiples of five to twenty-five years, this plan should be rehearsed and revised.

This should inform you to sit at the table with your spouse from the onset to work together to achieve the desired end.

- What would your plan entail?
Given the definition of purposeful parenting above, the elements include:

Nurturing Family

Knowing the Intrinsic Abilities

Nurturing your child's intrinsic

Career pathways

These fields will be the basis and form the plan for purposeful parenting context in this book.

The Nurturing Family

Family

Family refers to a group of people related by birth, marriage, or adoption who share a common household and emotional bond.

The Nurturing Family would be the one that is not disruptive to the child's well-being and development. The Family provides emotional support, love, and care, which are essential for a child's emotional and psychological development.

Its members serve as role models, teaching children values, morals, and behaviours that shape their personalities and characters.

The Family provides a sense of belonging, which is critical for a child's self-esteem and identity.

It also provides practical support, such as financial assistance, transportation, and help with daily tasks.

Family Knowledge

A family's knowledge refers to the collective understanding, experiences, and traditions shared

among family members. This knowledge can be passed down through generations, shaping the family's values, beliefs, and behaviours.

Types of family knowledge:

Cultural knowledge: Traditions, customs, and values unique to the family's cultural heritage.

Historical knowledge: Family history, genealogy, and stories about ancestors.

Practical knowledge: Skills and know-how passed down through generations, such as cooking, craftsmanship, or gardening.

Emotional knowledge: Understanding of emotional intelligence, empathy, and relationships within the family.

Spiritual knowledge: Shared spiritual beliefs, values, and practices that guide the family's worldview.

Family knowledge is a precious treasure that can enrich the lives of family members and contribute to a stronger sense of family identity.

The scriptural authority on family life cited in this chapter is to train up the child, the way it should go. Training is a process, and processes involve resources.

Training refers to the process of teaching or learning the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to perform a specific job, task, or activity. It involves the acquisition of new skills, behaviours, or perspectives and can be applied in various contexts.

The fundamental resources to train your child are your body of knowledge and prepared self, which preempts your readiness.

The skills and collective knowledge with the commitment to keep updating is a non-negotiable parenting resource or asset.

Family Values

Tuesdays by Twilights, my kids had gathered excitedly for the weekly family Bible study back in their childhood days. They had their jotters and assigned age-appropriate roles, including my three-year-old, who gave choruses.

The kids looked forward to it because it was a relatable kids' study manual for them. Question time was a vital part of the study and devotional time, as the purpose was not to pass information but to assimilate and imbibe it.

This was supported with morning prayers and confessions on the way to school. While the Church Sunday school class was also a part of the spiritual plan.

As they evolved from childhood into adolescence we got them personal devotional materials. That made them accountable at the family weekly sessions to share what they learnt, as they continued to maintain assigned roles by turns.

They were also required to revisit what they learned at the Sunday school or the main service.

These family sessions did serve to answer questions and clear doubts. It revealed the individuality or uniqueness of each child with unparalleled insight because of its spirituality.

Family values represent the principles, standards, and moral guidelines that a family holds dear and strives to live by.

These values serve as a foundation for the family's behaviour, decision-making, and interactions with each other and the world around them.

By establishing and living by a clear set of family values, you can:

- 1. Strengthen family bonds:** Foster a sense of unity, belonging, and connection among family members.
- 2. Guide decision-making:** Provide a moral compass for making choices and navigating challenging situations.

3. **Promote positive behaviours:** Encourage desirable behaviours, such as respect, empathy, and responsibility.
4. **Create a sense of identity:** Help family members develop a clear understanding of their values, beliefs, and traditions.

Family values are unique to each family and may evolve.

One crucial fundamental value is your spiritual position.

The spiritual compass is the word of God, for the family, which is rooted in the God, who is the initiator of family.

All values can be found in the word of God, ranging from respect, hard work, honesty, love, cooperation, and gratitude to forgiveness, personal growth, etc. It is indeed encompassing.

An essential Plan seeks to establish the kids in the solid milk of God's word. **Do not limit the child's spiritual development to outsourcing services, which should be complementary.**

The Homefront ought to set the standard, including efforts that check external inputs for alignment.

Fast Forward to the High school and College days, our kids replicated and revealed the forms or shapes they had taken growing up.

Expressing their affinity about spiritual values. In particular, they never hesitated to call home if in doubt of spiritual truth encountered outside.

They spoke to their friends about their Lord and, in some instances, put friends on a call to us to clarify spiritual issues. The encounters their friends had with them were remarkable. We encouraged them to invite their friends home.

They were taught scriptural principles of what is acceptable and unacceptable. Including interpersonal expectations and boundaries.

They are mindful of family values alongside the guidelines of spiritual values.

They are still a work-in-progress as we all are, and the commitment is a lifetime.

Family Choices

Values-based decision making aligns with purpose. As the family practices this act with the child's involvement, it gets adapted and the kids become the advocates for its priority.

To arrive at this point of prioritised principles, do these:

1. Start early: Introduce values-based decision-making at a young age, using simple examples and scenarios.
2. Use real-life examples: Use everyday situations to illustrate values-based decision-making.
3. Encourage critical thinking: Support children in developing critical thinking skills, such as analyzing information and evaluating options.
4. Model values-based decision-making: Demonstrate values-based decision-making in your life, providing a positive role model for your child.
5. Provide feedback and guidance: Offer constructive feedback and guidance as your child develops their values-based decision-making skills.

Family's Location/Environment

As a value-driven family, the setting or environment in which the values can be planted and nurtured in the child should influence the reason or choice of where to dwell and raise a family, considering the present and future impact.

The Social space is underscored by the environment the child finds him/herself in. This brings to mind the story of the baby whale that was kept in an aquarium for months with all the feeds and every support necessary.

Yet the whale was never able to grow to the standard size of a whale. Why? The environment limited the growth.

The baby whale was curtailed by the space in which it found itself.

Later, the scientists released the baby whale into the ocean where it belongs and in a matter of months, under close monitoring the baby whale had grown into the standard size of a whale. The power of the environment!

We all tend to be influenced or affected by the people we behold, regularly and often model after them. More importantly, the ones we interact with in our location.

While it is a fact that the world has become a global village, it doesn't erase the greater importance that the global village starts from the local village. It is those who have been raised in the local communities that are impacting the global space capacities.

Be diligent to ensure that the environment aligns with your values and vision.

Knowing the Intrinsic Abilities

The child is born with innate abilities, tendencies and potentials that are waiting to be discovered, developed and discharged, with the proper attention.

These abilities come in various modes and are displayed at different stages, times and environments.

Knowing them and what to look out for can be a tool to leverage in nurturing growth.

Five basic channels unveil the intrinsic abilities as listed and explained below:

- Intelligence Types
- The Talents and Giftedness
- Developmental Milestones
- Displayed Interests
- Displayed Personality

1. Intelligence Type/Smart

An intelligence type is an indicator of your strengths and areas where you excel. Everybody has one or more mixes of natural intelligence.

Each intelligence type indicates different skills or “smarts” you are best suited for. According to Howard Gardner, there are 9 intelligence types:

Naturalist (nature smart)

Musical (sound smart)

Logical-mathematical (number/reasoning smart)

Existential (life smart)

Interpersonal (people smart)

Bodily-kinesthetic (body smart)

Linguistic (word smart)

Intra-personal (self smart)

Spatial (picture smart)

2. Giftedness

Beyond the basic abilities of intelligence is extraordinary giftedness.

It's characterised by the possession of exceptional natural abilities or talents, particularly in intellectual, creative, or artistic areas.

It will be beneficial to the child who is spotted and helped early.

Below are some signs your child has an outstanding ability and high quotient in certain talents:

Early Signs of Giftedness Include:

- Unusual alertness in infancy
- Less need for sleep in infancy
- Long attention span
- High activity level
- Smiling or recognizing caretakers early
- Intense reactions to noise, pain, frustration
- Advanced progression through the developmental milestones
- Extraordinary memory
- Enjoyment and speed of learning
- Early and extensive language development
- Fascination with books
- Independence
- Curiosity
- Excellent sense of humour
- Abstract reasoning and problem-solving skills
- Vivid imagination
- Sensitivity and compassion

If a child exhibits a majority of these characteristics they need to be given special management to help them to thrive.

They should be exposed to specialised knowledge and training. Talent and Gifts must be nurtured for optimisation.

As first responders, you need to guard the genius or gifted space so that the child is not discouraged through labelling and abuse.

Early identification is recommended in early childhood (ages 3 through 8) because it permits timely intervention, as it's necessary for children with special needs.

At this phase, the child has the focus, attention and all the time available to build, without competing demands.

You must have met grown men and women who still desire to learn or up certain skills.

Procrastination and the high multifaceted demand in adulthood often pose a big discount.

3. Developmental Milestones

Every age milestone comes with peculiar exhibitions or discoveries. The parents need to watch closely so moments or traits don't es zape them.

A broad summary of the child's developmental Milestones is:

- Infancy and toddlerhood: During this stage, children develop trust and attachment to caregivers.
- Early childhood: Children develop independence and self-awareness during this stage.
- Middle childhood: Children develop social skills and learn to navigate relationships during this stage.
- Adolescence: During this stage, children develop their sense of identity and explore their values and beliefs.

The context of the stages are broad and the information are in the public domain and readily accessible. I have also included a link in the reference section of this book. For a robust knowledge of developmental milestones.

Understanding developmental milestones is fundamental to recognising the early signs of developmental delays. Early intervention is a powerful tool that can provide children with the support they need to overcome challenges and thrive.

4. The child's interest

Parents need to pay attention to their child's interests and provide more opportunities to explore them.

Interests refer to a child's passions, hobbies, and activities they enjoy doing in their free time. These interests can be a powerful influence on their career development and choice.

To nurture interests

1. Expose children to various activities: Provide opportunities for them to try different hobbies, sports, or clubs.
2. Foster a supportive environment where children feel encouraged to pursue their interests.
3. Help them reflect on their interests: Encourage children to think critically about their interests and how they might relate to future careers.

By acknowledging and nurturing a child's interests, parents, educators, and caregivers can help them develop a strong foundation for their future career development and choice.

5. The Child's Personality

The child's personality development is a complex and multifaceted process. One major key factor that influences a child's personality is;

- Genetic Factor

A child's temperament is from genetics, such as being introverted or extroverted, and it can influence their personality development.

Also genetic predispositions in a child cause certain personality traits, such as anxiety or optimism.

The other factors have been highlighted within this context, such as nurture, environment, and social impacts.

Understanding intrinsic abilities requires more than observation, it demands a deliberate look through the right lenses.

By paying attention to intelligence types, natural talents, developmental milestones, displayed interests, and personality traits, parents and caregivers gain valuable insights into the core of who the child truly is.

These five channels serve as revealing signposts, guiding us to recognize, nurture, and fully harness

innate potential. When we align these revealed abilities with purpose, we unlock a path to fulfillment and impactful living.

Having identified these abilities, we shall look at ways to nurture them in the next chapter.

Nurturing Your Child's Intrinsic

The gap between wishes and realities is actionable goals.

Nurturing is where the parents implement measures that satisfy the development or requirements of identified bend or direction of the child.

It's rightly termed the "child's" intrinsic and not the parents'.

The goal isn't for the child to live out the parents' unfulfilled or unmet dreams and desires.

The measures should be crafted to identify and develop the child's future life.

This process looks out for and identifies and refines the Child's intrinsic by working with the data and being intentional about the conditions wherein the child evolves.

The approaches to achieving this goal include:

- **Observation**

This is where the parents need to be present and attentive. The peculiar display of the child should be noted.

[50] But they didn't understand what he meant. [51] Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. And his mother stored all these things in her heart. Luke 2:50-51 NLT

Parents must store these special moments to connect the dots. A gifted child shows it as an infant.

A parent must be very keenly observant during the upbringing of a child to pay attention to the fine details so you can pick out what stands out in the baby.

There are instances of babies that were always blabbing from as early as 3 months to 9 months. So much talk, that the parents know instinctively, they would work on developing the child's oratory gifts to become adept or skilled.

We see many such being projected on media platforms, amassing views, affecting or entertaining people and increasing their family's status.

The 2021 Golf Hall of Fame inductee, Tiger Woods, has this testimony of early recognition by his parents.

He came from a sibling of four in a lower-middle-class family. From the age of two, he was recognized for his incredible talent at golf. His father and mother realized Tiger was gifted and decided to make sacrifices to make sure Tiger had the opportunity to learn and play golf growing up.

Pursue the early identification or detection of the intelligence your child exhibits through the growth process. They should be targeted to upskill around their strength. That's the round pegs in round holes phenomenon.

If you are uncertain, engage professional expertise.

The Intelligence Types listed in the opening part of chapter six, should serve as a basic reference point of giftedness to develop.

- **Educational or Learning Report**

This is the learning progress report overview as reported by a reputable school.

The report sheet has three sections that have explicit recording codes, viz cognitive domain, psychomotor and affective.

This is the ideal reporting format in elementary and high school. This function buttresses the need for an intentional School choice. (For more details on school choices and reports, I recommend “School Samples”, one of my authored books).

Each category of domain gives insight into the performance tracking of the child, starting with the cognitive,

1. Thinking and Knowing (Cognitive): This is all about learning new facts, ideas, and concepts. It's like filling up your brain with new information!
2. Doing and Moving (Psychomotor): This is about developing physical skills, like riding a bike, playing a sport, or even just tying your shoes!
3. Feeling and Believing (Affective): This is about developing our emotions, attitudes, and values. It's like learning to appreciate new things, make good choices, and be a kind person! It highlights the child's personal development and self-awareness, leadership and social interaction.

These three areas are all connected and help us grow as whole people. So, whether you're learning a new language, playing a musical instrument, or just navigating everyday life, you're using all three of these areas!

The reports given to your child should also be confirmed and reaffirmed in your observations of the child.

Here are some examples of how the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective domains are interconnected in specific skill development, and what correlation or corroboration you should look out for in your child's reports.

Musical Abilities

1. Cognitive: Learning music theory, reading sheet music, and understanding rhythm and tempo.
2. Psychomotor: Developing fine motor skills to play an instrument, coordinating hand movements, and using proper breathing techniques for singing.
3. Affective: Developing a sense of musicality, expressing emotions through music, and appreciating different genres and styles.

Public Speaking

1. Cognitive: Researching and organizing content, understanding the audience, and developing a clear message.
2. Psychomotor: Practicing vocal projection, using body language, and making eye contact with the audience.
3. Affective: Managing nervousness and anxiety, developing confidence, and connecting with the audience on an emotional level.

Sports Performance

1. Cognitive: Understanding game strategies, analyzing opponents, and making tactical decisions.
2. Psychomotor: Developing physical skills such as running, jumping, and throwing, as well as hand-eye coordination and reaction time.
3. Affective: Developing a competitive mindset, managing emotions under pressure, and building teamwork and communication skills.

Cooking

1. Cognitive: Reading recipes, understanding cooking techniques, and measuring ingredients.
2. Psychomotor: Developing fine motor skills for chopping, slicing, and dicing, as well as coordinating multiple tasks in the kitchen.
3. Affective: Experimenting with new flavours and ingredients, developing a sense of creativity and experimentation, and enjoying the process of cooking for others.

The school report for each domain should be connected and interrelated to give a holistic insight into your child's development.

The child's intelligence or smart starts to unfold in the learning domain feedback.

- **Environmental Factors**

Parenting style: Parenting style, such as authoritarian or permissive, can shape a child's personality.

Family dynamics: Family dynamics, such as sibling relationships and family conflicts, can influence a child's personality development.

Socio-cultural factors: Socio-cultural factors, such as cultural norms and values, can shape a child's personality.

- **Social Learning Factors**

Observation and imitation: Children learn by observing and imitating others, including family members, peers, and media figures.

Reinforcement and punishment: Reinforcement and punishment can shape a child's behaviour and personality.

Social interactions: Social interactions with others, such as peers and teachers, can influence a child's personality development.

- **Role Model Identification**

This is a powerful tool for supporting a child's upbringing.

They can inspire and motivate children to adopt positive values, behaviours, and attitudes.

Seeing positive role models can help children develop a positive self-image and confidence in their abilities.

You being a positive role model yourself: Children learn from what they see, so make sure to model the behaviours and values you want them to adopt.

Introduce children to positive role models: Arrange meetings or interactions with positive role models, such as family members, teachers, or community leaders.

Discuss and reflect on role models: Talk to children about the positive role models they've encountered, and help them reflect on what they can learn from these individuals.

Encourage children to find their role models: Support children in finding positive role models who inspire and motivate them.

Professional expertise in guidance and counseling

There would be moments when quality and informed decisions need to be taken, whether academic, career, spiritual growth, emotional health, mental health, or social relationships.

Purposeful Parenting leaves no stone unturned nor underserves the needs. Let experts be recognised and accessible.

Tips for Accessing Professional Guidance and Counseling:

1. School counselling services: Utilize school counselling services for academic and personal support.
2. Private counselling services: Consider private counselling services for more specialized support.
3. Online resources and support groups: Access online resources and support groups for additional guidance and support.
4. Pediatrician or family doctor referrals: Ask your child's paediatrician or family doctor for referrals to professional guidance and counselling services

Guidance and counselling connect parents with resources and support services to help them address their child's needs. While providing strategies and improved outcomes. The presence of the nurturer makes a huge difference in this development, so, be involved and devoted to the assignment. Well done, parents.

Career Pathways

The family and the intrinsic abilities that have been nurtured and developed are fundamental influences in the career path of the child.

The people, environment and even exposure play key roles.

Here is the overview of the factors that can influence a child's career development and choice:

Intrinsic Factors:

1. **Interests:** A child's passions and hobbies can shape their career aspirations.
2. **Aptitudes:** Natural abilities and talents can influence career choices.
3. **Personality:** Traits like extraversion, introversion, and conscientiousness can impact career suitability.
4. **Values:** A child's values, such as helping others or achieving success, can guide their career choices.

Extrinsic Factors:

1. **Family Influence:** Parents, siblings, and extended family members can shape a child's career aspirations through encouragement, expectations, or role-modeling.
2. **Socio-Economic Status:** A family's financial situation, education level, and social status can impact career choices and opportunities.
3. **Cultural and Social Norms:** Cultural expectations, social norms, and gender roles can influence career choices.
4. **Access to Resources:** Availability of educational resources, career counselling, and job opportunities can affect career development and choice.

Educational Factors:

1. **School Curriculum:** The subjects and courses offered in school can shape a child's career interests and aptitudes.
2. **Career Guidance:** Quality career counselling and guidance can help children explore career options and make informed decisions.
3. **Teacher Influence:** Teachers can inspire and motivate children to pursue specific careers or interests.

Environmental Factors:

1. **Community and Neighborhood:** The local community, neighbourhood, and environmental factors can influence career choices and opportunities.
2. **Media and Technology:** Exposure to media, technology, and social media can shape career aspirations and provide access to career information.
3. **Role Models and Mentors:** Positive role models and mentors can inspire and guide children in their career development.

These factors can interact with each other in complex ways, influencing a child's career development and choice.

Unleashing the Purpose-Oriented Child

Unleashing a purpose-oriented young adult into the marketplace/labour market or labour ecosystem requires careful preparation, guidance, and support.

Preparation must have been achieved in the needs of the child and nurturing the strengths, interests and personality.

Opportunities should be leveraged that are consistent with the slants and inclinations already set up.

Encourage him/her to participate in internships, volunteer work, or part-time jobs to gain hands-on experience.

Worship centres or fellowships provide excellent volunteer platforms where they can grow and be trained

Encourage your young adult to attend industry events, join professional organizations, and connect with professionals in their chosen field.

Offer emotional support and encouragement as they navigate the marketplace or labour market.

Having identified with life purpose, the young adult is more likely to find a career that aligns with their values and passions.

One who is living their purpose is set out to experience greater success and fulfillment in their career.

Unleashing a purpose-oriented adult into the marketplace is a cap you get to wear as an accomplished parent.

While this feat marks a parenting milestone as set forth, it should also be a new beginning for you as a senior parent with more noble roles in the offing. “Smile, smile”.

This is not the first milestone in your parenting walk. However, it is the major shift as your child transitions from dependence to independence, your role evolves into a new and noble phase.

Congratulations on your parenting milestone. It's a testament to your dedication and love as a parent.

Systems Support

Having set your child on the perceived course of career and path in life, you do not abandon. We all know that even automated systems have the backend technical assistance to thrive.

Without a doubt, we have established that raising a remarkable kid involves the intentional pursuit of plans set in systems to succeed.

Now that the kid is on track what do you check or look out for in the operating space?

Let's look at the following considerations:

- **Sustained Communication**
- Have in place systems through groups, reunions, visits and accountability.
- Regular communication and connection with family members can give children a sense of belonging and identity.
- Provides children with a network of emotional support and guidance.

- It also provides parents with a support network to share experiences, advice, and resources.
- Regular communication with other family members can facilitate collaborative parenting and ensure consistency in values and discipline. Nowadays a lot of families maintain correspondence groups and reunions.
- Accountability: Regular check-ins and accountability can help parents stay committed to their parenting goals and values.

Key Components of a Sustained Communication System:

1. Regular family meetings: Schedule regular family meetings or reunions to maintain open communication and connection.
2. Group chats or forums: Establish a group chat or online forum for family members to share updates, ask questions, and provide support.
3. One-on-one check-ins: Encourage regular one-on-one check-ins between family members, such as phone calls or video chats.
4. Establish accountability partnerships between family members to provide support and encouragement in achieving goals.

5. Develop family activities and traditions that promote bonding and connection, such as annual reunions or cultural celebrations.

Tips for Implementing a Sustained Communication System:

1. Start small: Begin with small, manageable steps, such as scheduling regular family meetings or establishing a group chat.
2. Consistency is key to maintaining open communication and connection.
3. Be flexible and adapt to changing needs and circumstances.
4. Model the behaviour and communication style you want to see in your family members.
5. Incorporate fun and enjoyable activities into your communication system to keep family members engaged and motivated.

- **Watching with Prayers**

- ***Prayerfulness**

In a world ridden with challenges and uncertainties. The knowledge of the greater force and power of God backing you goes a long way toward stability and peace.

The family values that prioritise and celebrate true spirituality will benefit tremendously from it.

As parents model God dependency, the child only falls in place.

The future is best managed by the one who knows it, even God.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, And he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:6

Commit thy way unto the LORD; Trust also in him; And he shall bring it to pass. Psalm 37:5

Confessionals

Here is one of the confessionals that was key in shaping the narratives of my children—spoken consistently through my mouth.

I used this during their formative and school years, and it remains relevant today.

My children turned out just as I declared concerning them. They excelled, finishing at the top of their classes on several occasions. They received prestigious awards and recognitions and graduated with First Class Honours in their respective disciplines.

Shape Your Outcomes with Your Prayers and Proclamations.

Confessional

My children and children's children are taught of the Lord. Great is their peace.

They do not sow wild oats nor awaken love before its time.

They pay attention to God even in their youth, and they do not walk with the sons of perdition or the rebellious.

Sinners lack the capacity to entice them.

They are light and salt to their generation. They are the head and not the tail, above only and not beneath.

They are mighty upon the earth. They are saved to the uttermost. Our family is saved to the uttermost.

Thank You, Father, for saving my household and bringing them into the household of faith in Christ Jesus.

You illuminate every darkness and cause us to walk in the light.

I pray that the spirit of wisdom and revelation will abound toward us in the knowledge of Your will.

The eyes of our understanding are enlightened, and we know Your good, acceptable, and perfect will in all things.

We approve the things that are excellent, abounding in love and all good things, to Your praise and glory.

We walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

We are strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.

We give thanks unto the Father, who has made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

Create different confessionals to suit your expectations in God.

Conclusion

Parenting is an intricate and multifaceted journey that can bring immense joy and fulfillment but also significant stress and anxiety if not managed properly through all that has been shared in this book.

Achieving peace of mind as a parent requires concerted efforts, self-awareness, and a willingness to adapt and grow.

I believe this book, "Purposeful Parenting", can help you to enjoy peace and calm, even in the midst of chaos. This, in turn, can have a profoundly positive impact on the children's well-being, development, and long-term success.

Keeping an eye on a child's developmental progress is a given where parenting is concerned.

The core of parenting is to be present, passionate and patient, with intentionality.

Be involved. Don't opt for parenting by proxy, for what you can be present.

Someone reflected on their parenting journey with her child full of regret because of absenteeism, especially during vulnerable and defining moments in the child's life.

Your parenting is accountable and rewardable.

You have what it takes to make a difference and deliver on it!

Go parent and finish well!

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It's A Wrap

- I always round up my books by giving opportunities to readers to make a life-transforming decision, which I did some decades back, and has helped me this far, by simply taking the prayers below;

Prayer for Salvation and Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Heavenly Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus. Your word says, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21). I am calling on You. I pray and ask Jesus to come into my heart and be the Lord over my life according to (Romans 10: 9-10): "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart, man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth, confession is made unto salvation". I do that now. I confess that Jesus is the LORD, and I believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead.

I am now reborn! I am a Christian—a child of Almighty God! I am saved! You also said in your word;

(Luke 11:13) - If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall [your] heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Therefore, I ask you to fill me with the Holy Spirit.

I believe I shall forthwith, speak in new tongues, according to your word in; (Acts 2:4) And they were

all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Begin to praise God for filling you with the Holy Spirit. Speak those words and syllables you receive not in your language but in the language that was given to you by the Holy Spirit. You have to use your voice. God will not force you to speak; don't be concerned with how it sounds; it is a heavenly language. Continue with the blessings God has given you and pray in the spirit every day.

You are a born-again, Spirit-filled believer. You will never be the same.

Find a good Church that boldly preaches God's Word and obeys it. Become part of a church family who will love and care for you, as you love and care for them.

We need to be connected. It increases our strength in God, and it is God's plan for us.

Make it a habit to communicate with God daily, through prayers, and read your bible to grow.

You are most welcome to contact us via our contact details provided.

Congratulations!

Contact

You can contact the author via email at
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Or follow her outreach platforms on;

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S4R podcast on Spotify

<https://open.spotify.com/show/7iwYHW0a9gsFQeNR1QOEh>

Bookstores (for authored books)

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<https://selar.co/m/abimbola-iloril>

<https://paystack.shop/bimboiloribooks>

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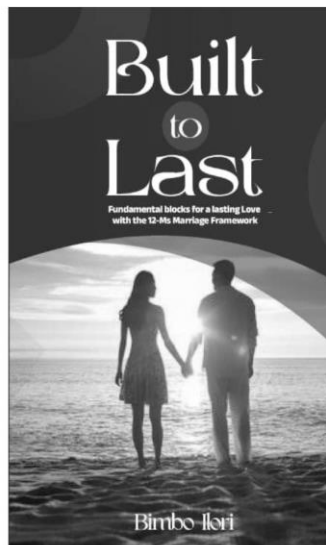
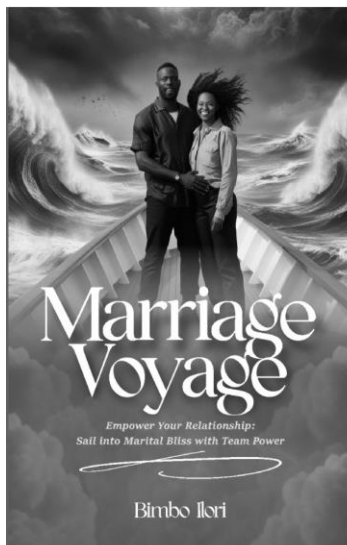
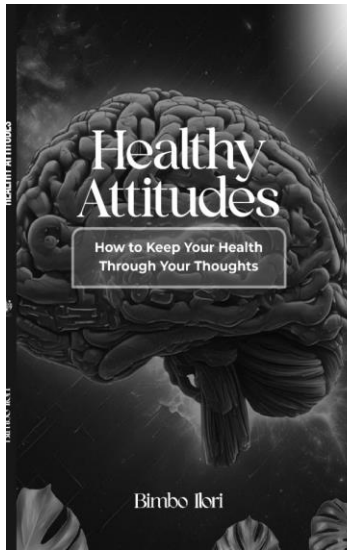
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Other books by the author



PURPOSEFUL PARENTING

Raise Remarkable kids with your mind at peace

I believe this book, "Purposeful Parenting", would help you to enjoy peace and calm, even in parenting. Opening you up to the things you interact with regularly with a more meaningful perspective. Showing you that the path to raising remarkable kids is possible and accessible. The key factor in parenting is to be present, passionate and patient, with intentionality. Purposeful Parenting takes you through raising your child from being cradled till enabled. Celebrate your accomplishment. Congratulations, dear purposeful parent.



Bimbo Ilori is an author with a purposive drive in her context. She has written over 35 books including bestsellers. She is a master's holder in Administration, a fellow, the chartered administrators professional, and a certified life and purpose coach. She teaches, writes and speaks about her passion, which includes Administration, a purpose-led life, and giving perspectives on the essentials of life. She is married to Bisi Ilori and they are blessed with children.



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