




## Parenting: Raising Parents

1 John 3:1; Ephesians 6:4  
Ray Cortese, January 6 & 7, 2018



### Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read 1 John 3:1 and Ephesians 6:4. What stood out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

### Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1 Parenting is the holiest and most harrowing endeavor in life. It is a rollercoaster with highs and lows – an exhausting, expensive, patience-testing battle. How have you experienced this yourself, or how have you seen others experience this?
- 2 What was your one main/big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

#### OUR FATHER RAISES SELF-AWARE PARENTS

- 3 We cannot hide who we are from our children. How do you think your children would describe you as a parent? If you don't have children, how would you describe your parents?
- 4 Ray said, "The key to change your child's heart will involve your repentance." Do your kids have a template for failure? Have you ever admitted your failures and weakness to your children? If so, how did it go? If not, what has kept you from repenting?

## OUR FATHER RAISES SELF-DENYING PARENTS

- 5 Why is choosing to have children a choice to die to self? What happens to a family when parents are not self-denying?
- 6 What are the benefits of raising your children in a church? How have you found ways to surround your kids with others who are ardent about Jesus?

## OUR FATHER RAISES SECURE PARENTS

- 7 What did Ray mean when he said, “Insecure parenting reverses the umbilical cord”? Have you been guilty of over-parenting or over-indulging your children? How?
- 8 In your own words, how does the Father love of God give you the security needed to parent the right way? Have you experienced the Father love of God?

## **Step 3: Final Reflections**

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?