



Missional Parenting

June 20, 2021 (Week 3 of 3) - David Holcomb



MATURITY:
A PRIMARY AIM
OF PARENTING

AS SONS AND DAUGHTERS ...

- **This is my prayer ... you would grow more in knowledge, depth of insight, wisdom, discernment, understanding, and maturity**
 - **Ephesians 1:16-18, Philippians 1:9-11, Colossians 1:9-12**
- **“Stop thinking like children ... in your thinking be adults ... you ought to be teachers by now, but you need someone to teach you ... solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves ... let us be taken forward to maturity ... mature into the full measure of Christ ... so you may be mature and complete (by testing and trials)**
 - **Paul, Writer to the Hebrews, James**

BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION IS NOT FOR HAPPINESS NOR OBEDIENCE ALONE

**The primary concern for God's children,
followers of Jesus adopted as infants into the
family as sons and daughters, is not happiness
nor obedience, but the process of growing and
maturing into spiritual "adults."**

Sanctification

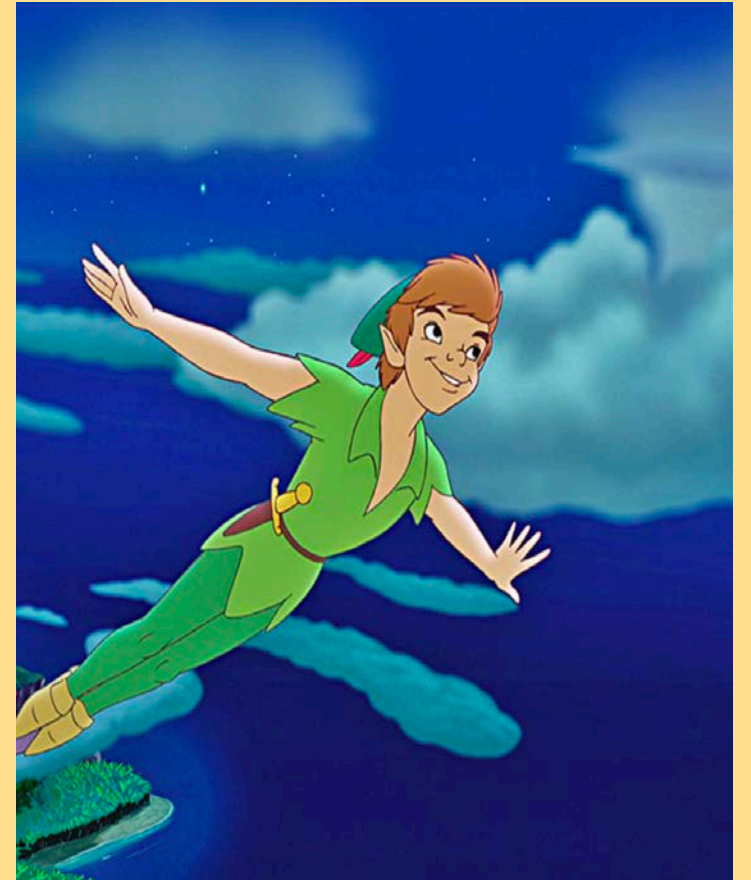
THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE AND THE HISTORY OF ALL CIVILIZATION

- The goal is **NOT** a “Peter Pan” life
- Many are stuck in a perpetual Neverland
- “Adulthood” has become a four-letter word

Wendy: *You are both ungallant and deficient!*

Peter: *How am I deficient?*

Wendy: *You’re just a boy.*



THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE AND THE HISTORY OF CIVILIZATION

- **We have been created as aspirational beings, looking to and striving toward, the future. Living in the present, yet pursuing our future potential.**



QUALIFIERS IN DISCUSSING THE CALL TO AN AIM OF MATURITY

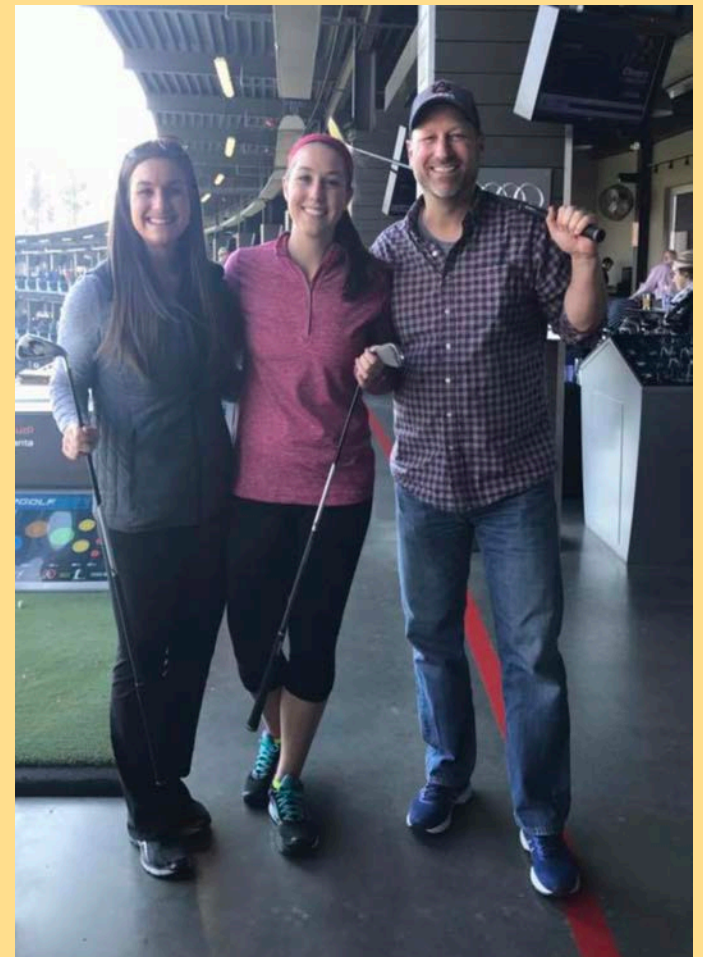
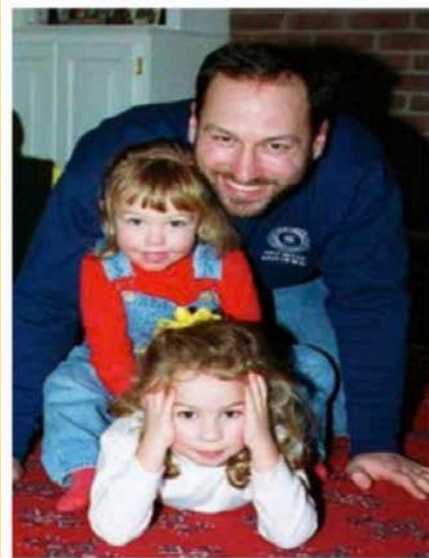
- I am not a doctor, psychologist, therapist, etc.
- I am not advocating looking past today. *Living in the present is not the same as staying in the present.*
- I am not a grumpy, old, get-off-my-lawn, fuddy-duddy. The problem is not so much “those Millennials and Z’ers,” as much as it has been “us, Boomers and X’ers.”

QUALIFIERS IN DISCUSSING THE CALL TO AN AIM OF MATURITY

- **I am not advocating a “once size fits all.”
There are no easy formulas.**
- **I am not focusing this presentation on the
ultimate concern for our children, that of
spiritual maturity (though it is very much
hand-in-hand).**

QUALIFIERS IN DISCUSSING THE CALL TO A FOCUS ON MATURITY

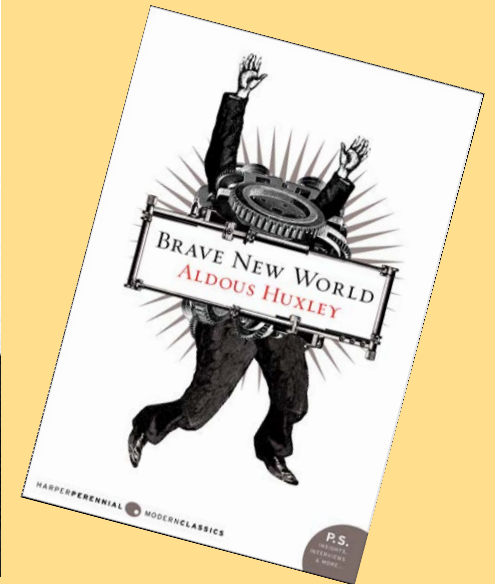
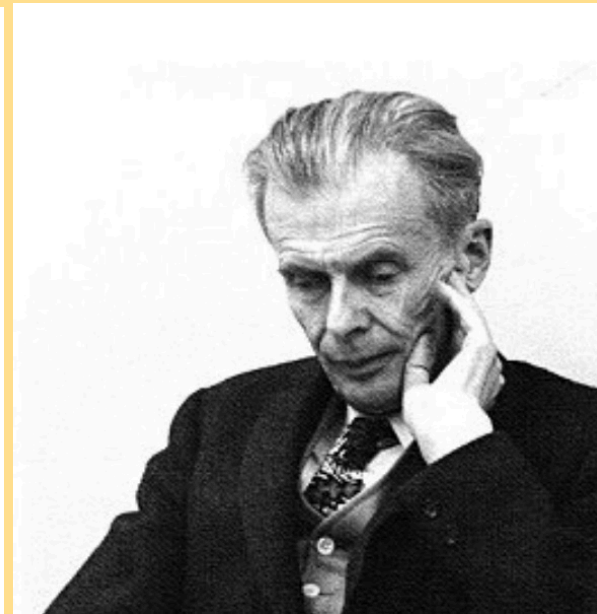
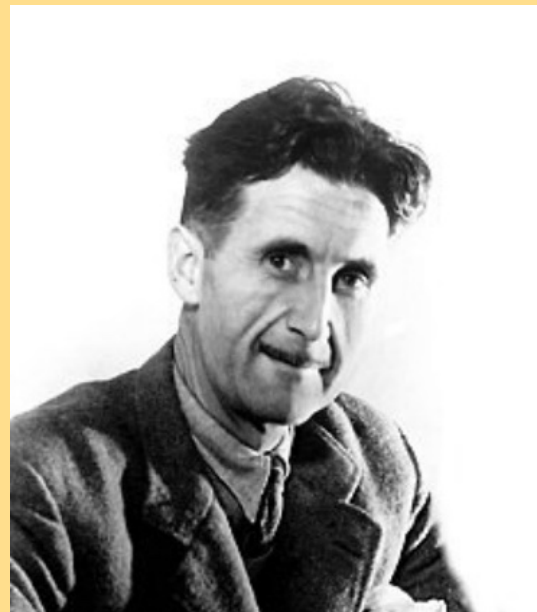
- I am a dad
- “I know a thing or two, cause *I’ve seen a thing or two*”



SO, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* ('49)

Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World* ('31)



SO, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

“What Orwell feared were those who would ban books. What Huxley feared was that there would be no reason to ban a book, for there would be no one who would want to read one. Orwell feared those who would deprive us of information. Huxley feared there would be so much information that we would be reduced to passivity and egoism.”

- Neil Postman

SO, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

CHANGING ADOLESCENCE

- The rigorous, intentional phase of preparation for adulthood – work, social interaction, responsibilities.
- This phase has shifted more dramatically over the past twenty-five years than in the previous two hundred.
- Historical Ranges: 10 – 16 years of age.
- Today's Range: 17 – 25+ (despite an earlier puberty)
- Regardless of age, intentional plans are rare; rather it's often, *“They will grow up when they are ready.”*

SO, TWO CHOICES FOR ADOLESCENCE:

PLAN A: MOVE BEYOND ADOLESCENCE

For our children to arrive at adulthood as fully formed, resilient, self-reliant, problem-solving souls who are fully capable of responsibly engaging in the world around them and view themselves as called to purposeful pursuits.

SO, TWO CHOICES FOR ADOLESCENCE:

NO PLAN: REMAIN IN ADOLESCENCE

Children drifting in a state of passive, dependent, perpetual adolescence, consumed with self and mindless consumption, making irresponsible decisions and shutting out the world around them, while avoiding 'adulthood' at any cost.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO RAISING CHILDREN: 9 REALITIES

I. More Medication: Coping and Excusing

“The most medicated generation of youth in history.”



SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO RAISING CHILDREN: 9 REALITIES

2. More Screen Time

8-12 yr. olds = 5:55 / day

13-18 yr. olds = 8:56 / day

2/3 of waking time

5 Million Americans (Men, 18-30) 45+ hrs. / week (75% of leisure time)

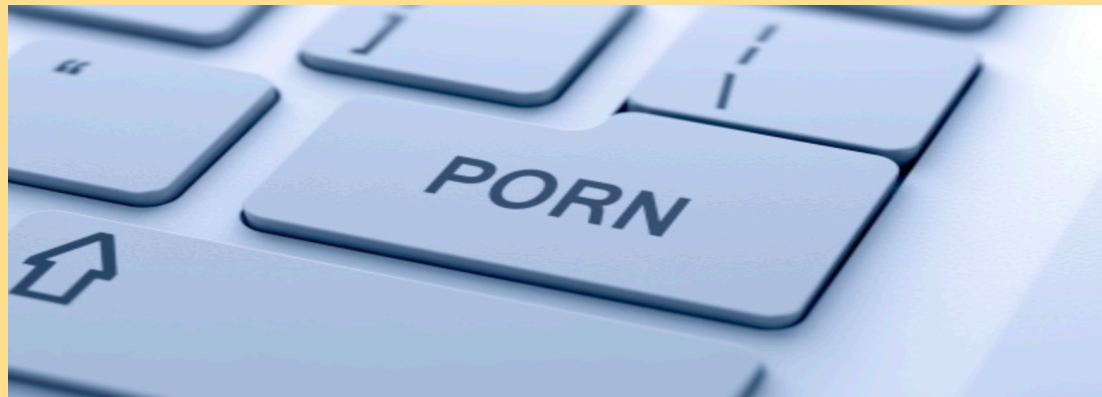


SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO RAISING CHILDREN: 9 REALITIES

3. Unrestricted Access to Pornography

90% boys / 70% girls as teenagers exposed

Obsessive, consuming behavior that is a different type of destructive addiction



SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO RAISING CHILDREN: 9 REALITIES

4. More Time Under Parent's Roof

25% of ages 25-29 live with a parent

Boomerang generation

Most in 130 years



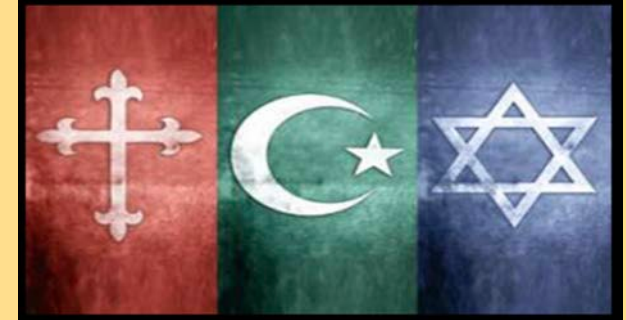
A close-up photograph of two gold wedding rings and a pearl necklace resting on a piece of aged, handwritten paper. The rings are intertwined, and the pearls are strung in a line. The paper has cursive handwriting in dark ink, which is slightly blurred, suggesting a shallow depth of field. The overall tone is warm and romantic.

Ages 18-34, 32% live with parents, more than are married.

Diminishing commitments, “*Family roles are viewed as more burdensome, not worth it.*”

Diminishing relationship & social skills

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO RAISING CHILDREN: 9 REALITIES



6. Less Religious Participation

35% of Millennials ('81-'96) identify as

“Atheists, Agnostic or Nothing in Particular”

Most express a rejection of authority.

“When I was a child, I spoke ... but when I became a man ...” or Jewish Bar / Bat Mitzvahs (age 13).

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO RAISING CHILDREN: 9 REALITIES

7. Little Citizens No More

< 25% proficient in civics / geography

42% of millennials prefer socialism over capitalism ... only 16% of millennials can define socialism in a historical context

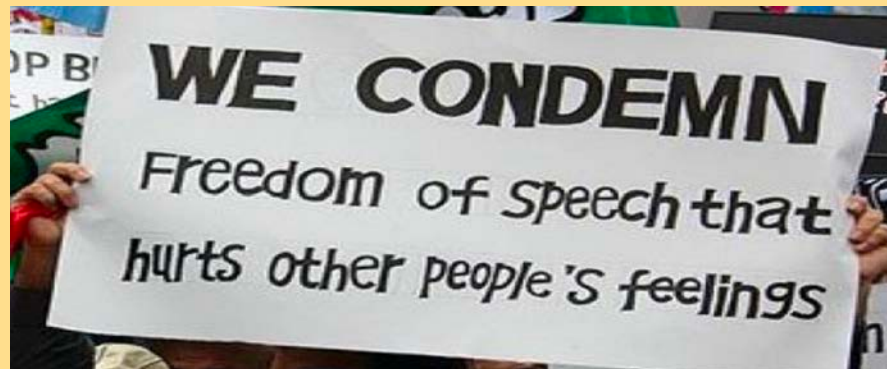


SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO RAISING CHILDREN: 9 REALITIES

8. More Intellectually Fragile

“Intentional shielding of words and ideas that makes one feel uncomfortable”

Inability to accept feedback and reality



SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO RAISING CHILDREN: 9 REALITIES

9. Softer Parenting

Helicopter “Hovering” (intentional / unintentional)

“Be dressed and in the car”

No launch plan

The training wheels stay on



SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO RAISING CHILDREN: 9 REALITIES

Table Talk

- * More Medication**
- * More Pornography**
- * More Boomerang Kids**
- * Less Civic Knowledge**
- * More Intellectually Fragile**
- * More Screen Time**
- * Less Marriage**
- * Less Religion**
- * Softer Parenting**

INTENTIONAL MATURITY: 5 ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Character Building Habits

Ages 4 to ____

All Build Scar Tissue

Each Requires Intentionality / Discipline

Bodybuilding for the Mind and Soul

INTENTIONAL MATURITY: 5 ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Desegregate Generations

- Generational Segregation: How we socialize, worship, play, learn, and more.**
- 6% of age 60+ had meaningful conversation with anyone under 36 in last six months.**
- Embrace 'death' as central to life (connects generations, encourages urgency, dispels 'fountain of youth' mentality, enhances 'hope')**

!



INTENTIONAL MATURITY: 5 ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Embrace Work

- Creation Mandate: Worship and Work**
- Learn to suffer (5:00 am alarm, weekend schedule, no phones)**
- The family that works together ...**

INTENTIONAL MATURITY: 5 ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Embrace Work

- Build toward adult work (age-appropriate tasks, worksite tours, volunteer)**
- The Key: Teaching children to desire productivity, initiate preparation, and execute all work with excellence**

INTENTIONAL MATURITY: 5 ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Embrace Work



INTENTIONAL MATURITY: 5 ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Consume Less

He who is not contented with what he has, will not be contented with what he would like to have.

- Socrates

INTENTIONAL MATURITY: 5 ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Consume Less

- Happiness Portfolio: Faith, Family, Work, & Community**
- Define “need / want” in your home; G.K. Chesterfield: *Two Ways***
- Understand the cultural appetite for consumerism; model restraint and live out the principles of delayed gratification**

INTENTIONAL MATURITY: 5 ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Consume Less



INTENTIONAL MATURITY: 5 ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

4. Travel to Discover

- Well traveled tend to be more flexible, calm, problem solvers
- *“Travel is fatal to prejudice”* – Mark Twain
- Teachable Travel (plan, purchase, do)
- Don't underestimate your child

INTENTIONAL MATURITY: 5 ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

4. Travel to Discover



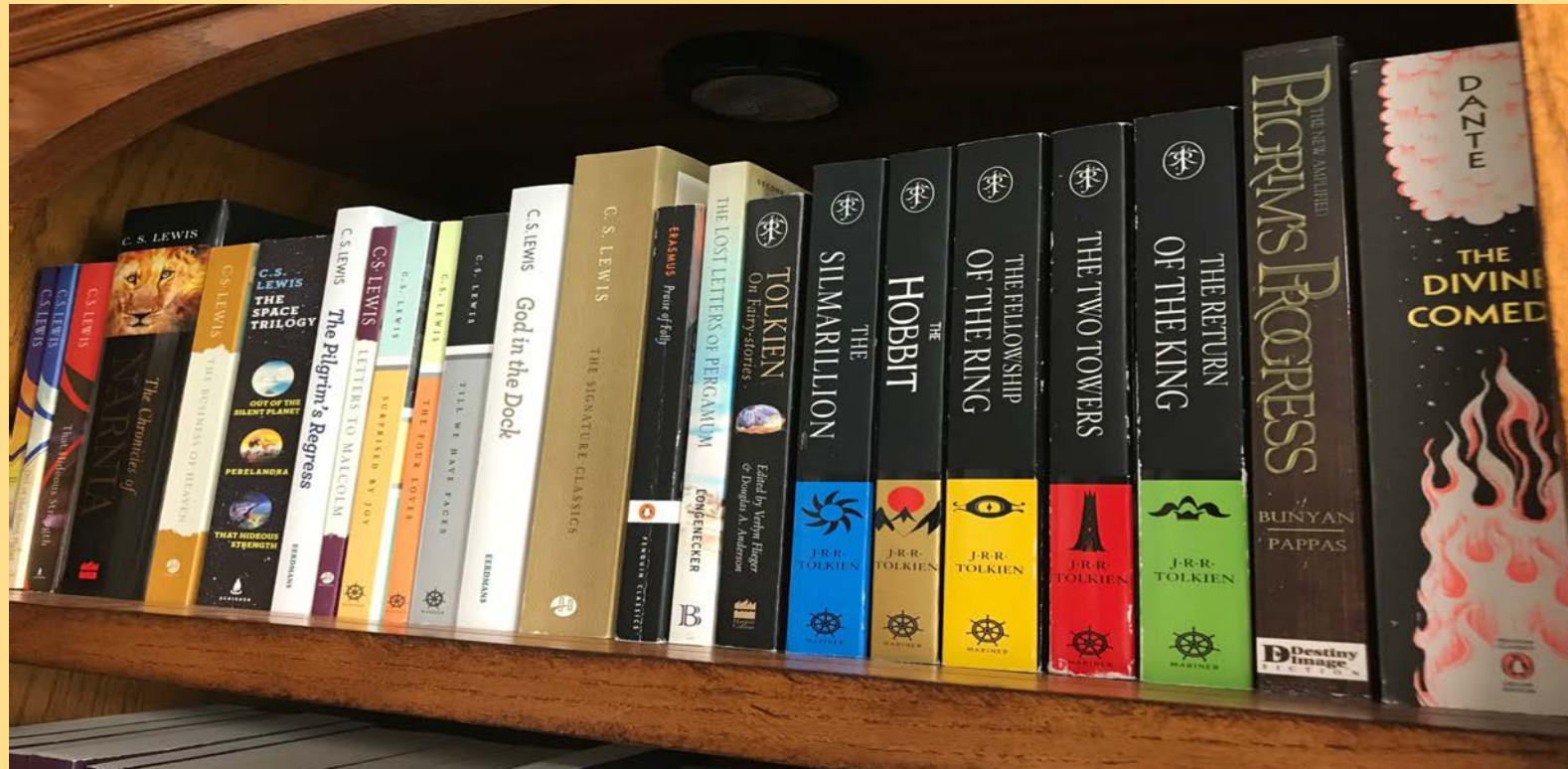
INTENTIONAL MATURITY: 5 ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Build a Bookshelf

- Becoming literate is an active, intentional, maturity-developing choice**
- Average American reads 19 minutes / day**
- Build categories with your children**
- Raise them as if they will rule someday!**

INTENTIONAL MATURITY: 5 ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Build a Bookshelf



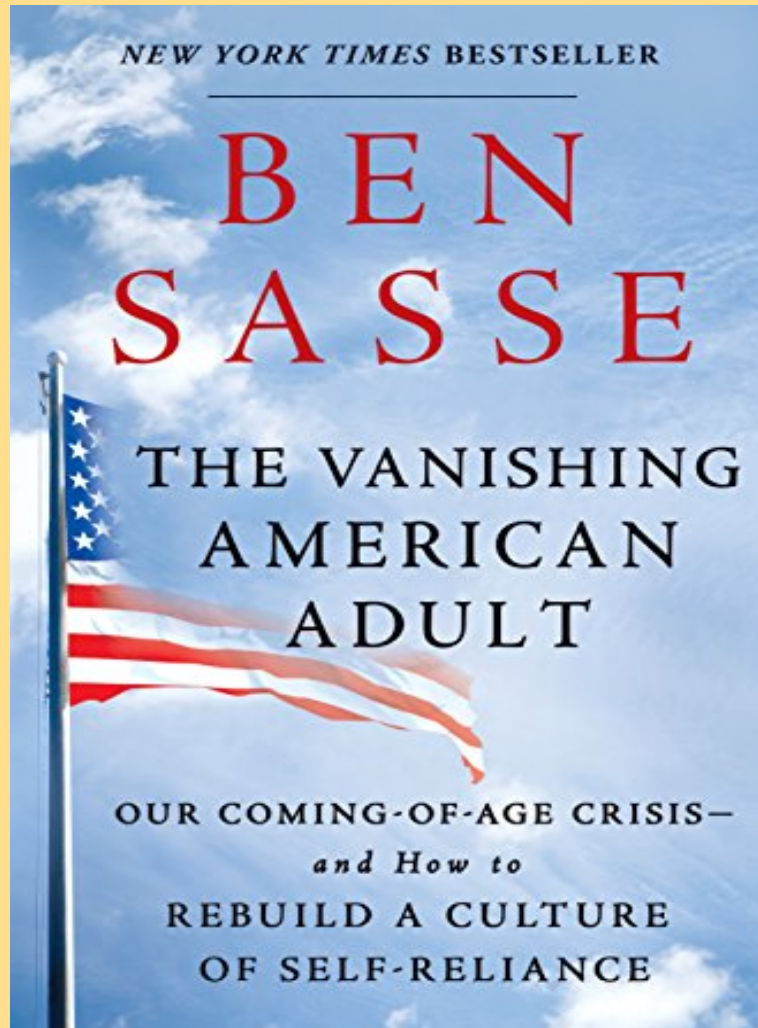
IN SUMMARY ...

- **Many factors cause delayed maturity.
Recognize them and be intentional about how they impact our children.**
- **There are many ‘active’ ways we can guide our children toward adulthood and greater maturity – be purposeful.**

IN SUMMARY ...

- **Model adulthood in a way that your children embrace it, desire it, and look forward to following your example one day.**
- ***“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” - 3 John 1:4***

IN SUMMARY ... (RESOURCES)



“Along the Journey” (G 6:1-4)
God-Honoring Parenting



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OF PARENTING