

SONS FORMATION PROCESS

FOUR LEVELS OF MATURITY

1. Ne_pios – Infant, babe, childish, immature

1 Corinthians 3:1, NASB – *And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ.*

Hebrews 5:13 – *For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.*

2. Teknon – A child (of either sex)

Romans 8:16, NASB – *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.*

1 John 3:1, NASB – *See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.*

3. Huiois – Son, man (mature son)

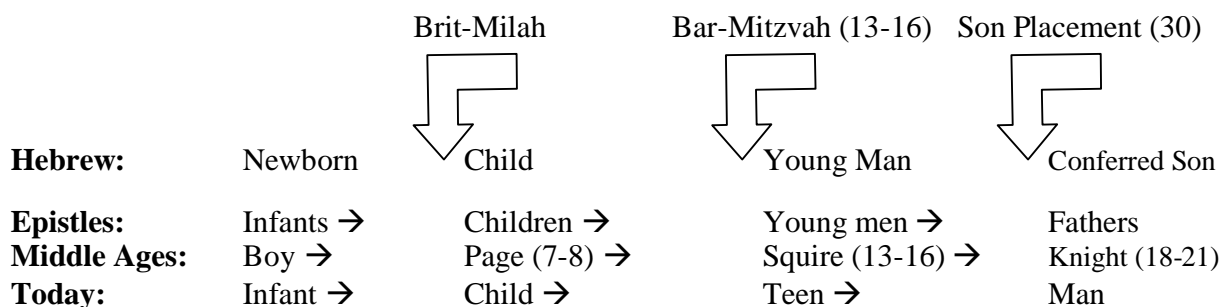
Romans 8:14 NASB – *For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

Romans 8:19, NASB – *For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons [mature sons] of God.*

4. Pate_r – Father, parent

1 John 2:13-14, NASB – *I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*

LIFE CYCLE PROCESS AND CEREMONIES



What is missing today? (1) No intentional training
(2) No purposeful promotion ceremonies

Gospel Relational Model: Infant → Disciple → Servant → Friend

DEVELOPING AN INTENTIONAL (RELATIONAL) PROCESS:

Problem:

- a) Almost all discipleship material is “knowledge” focused rather than “relationship” focused.
 - It focuses on learning biblical knowledge rather than developing biblical relationships.
- b) Almost all discipleship material is “product” oriented rather than “process” oriented.
 - It focuses on getting a person to learn a few key skills to become productive (eg. Tithing, evangelism, serving) rather than honouring the natural process of human development (for growing healthy, whole, mature people).

We Must Develop A Process For Raising Up “Mature Sons” That Needs To:

- a) Be Biblical
- b) Focus on developing healthy, mature people who can function relationally
- c) Honour the natural process of human development
- d) Be sensitive to the God-given needs of humankind at each step of the process

Consider The Natural Process:

- a) A boy is born of a woman, and goes through a process of bonding, where he develops a healthy sense of being loved, accepted, safe, and valued
- b) The boy is weaned from his mother, and begins to connect with his father, where he develops a sense of identity and purpose
- c) The boy then learns character and skills, all within a loving relationship with his father.
- d) The boy matures, and is eventually released and blessed to form his own household.

TURNING THE HEARTS OF FATHERS AND SONS

Malachi 4:5-6, NIV – (5) *See, I will send you the prophet Elijah ... (6) He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers*

Proverbs 17:6 – “The glory of sons is their fathers.”

- “Glory” – Greek = “tipharah” = Glory, beauty, pride, adornment, splendour
- Every boy hungers, longs for someone to look up to as a father
- We were created to be blessed by a father, and when we don’t get his blessing, it leaves a wound.

THREE THINGS EVERY “SON” NEEDS TO HEAR

“*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!*” - Matthew 17:5

1. “This is my beloved son” – “I love you”
2. “In whom I am well-pleased” – “I’m proud of you”
3. “Listen to Him” – “You have something significant to share with others” (ie. You’re good at ...)

MAKE SURE HE HEARS ...	MAKE SURE HE RECEIVES ...
• “I LOVE YOU” (affection)	• A MANHOOD VISION ... and a manhood ceremony that seals it
• “I’M PROUD OF YOU” (admiration)	• A CODE OF CONDUCT ... that <u>you</u> live by
• ‘YOU’RE GOOD AT ...’ (affirmation)	• A TRANSCENDENT CAUSE ... something to live for other than himself

LESSONS LEARNED

1. Don't Try To Raise Up A Son Without Letting Them Go Through The Whole Process:

a) Infant / New Christian:

- i. Develops a sense of security
- ii. Learns identity
- iii. Experiences acceptance
- iv. Experiences unconditional love

b) Disciple:

- i. Knows your heart
- ii. Learns your values / character
- iii. Develops a teachable spirit
- iv. Learns to be trust and accountable
- v. Learns personal discipline

- If a person tries to be a disciple, without first receiving “nurture” that results in a firm sense of identity, acceptance, security and love, they will always question your heart, and not be able to trust you and be truly teachable or accountable

c) Servant

- i. Learns how to willingly submit
- ii. Learns how to invest in his spiritual father

- If a person tries to be a servant without first being an “infant” and a disciple, he will not be able to serve you from a place of being accepted, or from a place of trust.
- As a result, he will serve you as an orphan, in which case he will:
 - i. Slave rather than serve, in order to earn your acceptance
 - ii. Keep testing you by demanding that you continue to serve him, in order for you to prove your acceptance of him

d) Friend

- i. Learns to continue to trust and honour the wisdom of his spiritual father, all the while looking for his own “sons” to raise up.
- If a person tries to be a son, without first being an “infant”, disciple, and servant, he will not truly trust you, or know the importance of investing in you.
 - As a result, he will:
 - i. Not be able to fully give you his heart, which is necessary for true sonship
 - ii. Will have his focus on “me” (his needs), because he will not trust you to be considerate of his needs
 - iii. Will not value your fathering, because he will always question your motives

2. Understand The Difference Between Servant And Slave Mentalities

- a) Slave tries to “earn” acceptance, through “slaving” for you, rather than serving you
- b) Slave serves to “earn”, rather than to “invest”.

3. Don’t Try To Be Both A “Spiritual Mother” And A “Spiritual Father”

- a) Every person must “wean” off of their mother and onto their father
- b) If the mother and father is the same person, it hinders the “weaning” process and confuses the son/daughter concerning their expectations
- c) Therefore, raise up a “pastoral care” ministry to do the “mothering” (ie. Nurturing, etc.)

4. There Is A Price To Pay

- a) Organization / Delegation
- b) Time

5. Clearly Teach Expectations Before Your Implement Spiritual Fathering

- a) Reasonable Expectations – Father To Son
- b) Reasonable Expectations – Son To Father

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

“After My Father’s Heart – The Cry Of Every Son And Daughter” by Isaac Stokes, Columbia Christian Publishing, © 2001 by Isaac Stokes, 175 pgs

“Apostolic Revelation” by John Kingsley Alley

“Birthing Destiny” by Debby Baril, Destiny Christian Church, 1 message

“Coaching For Performance” by John Whitmore

“Entering Destiny Through Sonship” by Debby Baril, Destiny Christian Church, 3 messages

“Fathering The Father’s Heart” by Eugene May, Destiny Christian Church, 5 messages

“Growing Into Sonship” by David Hibbert, Destiny Christian Church, 4 messages

“Imparting Generational Blessings” by Chuck Clayton, Destiny Christian Church, 1 message

“Is There A Father In The House? – Preparing Spiritual Sons To Lead The Church” by Paul Bersche, Destiny Image, © 1995 Paul Bersche, 172 pgs

“No More Sour Grapes – Releasing The Power Of Our Children’s Destiny” by Don Nori, Destiny Image, © 1999 Destiny Image Publishers, 171 pgs

“Raising A Modern Day Knight” by Robert Lewis, Tyndale House, © 1999 Robert Lewis, 170 pgs

“Spiritual Mothering” by Kathy Hibbert, Destiny Christian Church, 1 message

“The Cry For Spiritual Fathers And Mothers” by Larry Kreider, House To House Publications, © 2000 House To House Publications, 186 pgs

“The Father’s Blessing” by Bob Edwards, Destiny Christian Church, 5 messages

“The Quest For Authentic Manhood” – by Robert Lewis

“The Road To Sonship” by Chuck Clayton, Apostolic Resource Ministries

“You Have What It Takes – What Every Father Needs To Know” by John Eldredge, Nelson Books, © 2004 John Eldredge, 53 pgs