



**LIFE**  
**Ministry**  
**Uganda**



# Parenting in this Volatile and Competitive World

”from Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do—”  
1 Chronicle 12:32

**Moses and Julian Bagyendera**

# The Bagyendera family



# Influence on Children

- **Covid19 Pandemic (15m kids out of school).** Confinement of the population at home and in their communities resulted in a sharp rise in domestic violence, child abuse, incest, teenage pregnancy, sexual exploitation, and child labor. Cases rose by over 50%
- **Social Media**
- **Cyberbullying**, sharing personal or private information about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation
- **Mental health**
- **Peer pressure**
- **Drug Abuse**
- **Role modeling, parents, relatives, community**

# Introduction

Parenting is never easy. Nobody in this fallen world has mastered it.

And when it comes to raising children in the fear of the Lord, fathers shoulder the greatest biblical responsibility—being accountable to God as the heads/Highpriests of their homes

## [Ephesians 6:4](#)

<sup>4</sup> Fathers,<sup>[a]</sup> do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

## [1 Timothy 3:4–5](#)

<sup>4</sup> He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full<sup>[a]</sup> respect. <sup>5</sup> (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)


# God's Standard

## Deuteronomy 6:6-9

6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

*Bagyendera*  
FAMILY VALUES.

1. Faith - Belief and Trust in God.
2. Honesty - Telling the truth no matter what.
3. Love and Care for each other.
4. Kindness.
5. Integrity.
6. Obedience.



# Eli the Priest Case Study

Eli had been a Judge of Israel for a total of 40 years died at 98 years.

In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions..... Eli's eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place..... ([1 Samuel 3:1](#)),

Eli was a priest and judge over Israel during one of the lowest points in its history—at the end of the era of judges, when “everyone did what was right in his own eyes” ([Judges 21:25](#)). Eli's life is a great lesson for us because his key failure was a relatively obscure sin that runs rampant in the church today—a passive approach to parenting.

Eli was no reprobate. He had good desires for the people of Israel ([1 Samuel 1:17](#)), reverence for God ([1 Samuel 3:18](#)), and a hatred of evil ([1 Samuel 2:22–24](#)). But his hatred of evil didn't produce any active response—at least as far as his sons were concerned. His passive approach brought disastrous results for his family and the nation of Israel. Along the way he displayed a severe deficiency in three critical qualities that all fathers need.

# Case study....

The sons of Eli, [Hophni and Phinehas](#), were behaving wickedly, by taking for themselves all the prime cuts of meat from sacrifices, and by committing adultery with the women who serve at the sanctuary entrance.

The sons continued in their sinful behavior, and "a man of God" prophesied to Eli that Eli and his family would be punished for this, with all male descendants dying before reaching old age and being placed in positions subservient to prophets from other lineages.

As a sign of the accuracy of this future, Eli was told that his sons would die on the same day.

# Failure to Discern

John MacArthur was once asked “what is the greatest need in the church today?” He responded directly and succinctly: “[It’s simple for me to answer that. The biggest problem in the church today is the absence of discernment.](#)” And Eli’s life is proof that the lack of discernment is not an exclusively modern problem.

Eli accused a pious woman (Hannah) of drunken behavior because she prayed silently in the tabernacle ([1 Samuel 1:12–14](#)). But he was seemingly oblivious to his own sons who were abusing their priestly office by fornicating ([1 Samuel 2:22](#)) and stealing sacrifices ([1 Samuel 2:12–17](#)) right under his nose!

Eli eventually did confront his sons. But it was only after their wicked conduct became common knowledge among the Israelites:

Discernment only identifies the issue. Once sin is identified it must also provoke swift and decisive action.



# Failure to Discipline

Eli may have confronted his sons (though under duress) but he never took any disciplinary action against them. He may have thought he had a loving attitude towards his sons, but Scripture says it was a practical hatred: “He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently” ([Proverbs 13:24](#)).

Remember Solomon’s counsel: “Discipline your son while there is hope, and do not desire his death” ([Proverbs 19:18](#)).

“The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who sets his own way brings shame to his mother” ([Proverbs 29:15](#)). “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him” ([Proverbs 22:15](#)).

A failure to discipline children demonstrates a lack of love for them, and even more disturbingly, a lack of love for God.

# Failure to Separate

Eli's delayed objections to his sons' behavior ring hollow. God had rebuked Eli, asking him why do you "honor your sons above me?" ([1 Samuel 2:29](#)). God equated Eli's passive approach with "kick[ing] at My sacrifice and at My offering which I have commanded." The outrageous scandal of Eli's ministry was that he failed to make a clear separation—a division between the priesthood and his disqualified sons.

Eli allowed his sons to continue ministering as priests in the Lord's house this lingered well into his old age ([1 Samuel 2:22](#))

Eli's overweight physique ([1 Samuel 4:18](#)) also reveals his failure to divide from the sinful activities of his sons. While he paid lip service to abhorring their sin, it seems he willingly partook of the spoils.

God included Eli with his sons by saying, "making yourselves fat with the choicest of every offering of my people Israel" ([1 Samuel 2:29](#), emphasis added).

# Consequence of sin

Some years later, the [Philistines](#) attacked [Eben-Ezer](#), eventually [capturing the Ark of the Covenant](#) from the Israelites and killing Eli's sons who had accompanied the Ark to battle. The Israelites had brought the Ark with them to battle under the premise that it would bring them victory, an assumption that proved to be incorrect.

Eli, who was nearly blind, was sitting at the front gate waiting for news. A soldier that had returned told Eli what happened; the Ark of God had been captured, 2 of his sons killed, Eli fell backward out of the chair and died.

His daughter-in-law, the [wife of Phinehas](#), was pregnant and near the time of delivery. When she heard the news that the Ark of God had been captured and that her father-in-law and husband were dead, she went into labour and gave birth, but was overcome by labour pains. As she lay dying, the women attending her said, Don't despair; you have given birth to a son. But she did not respond or pay any attention. She names the boy [Ichabod](#), saying **“The Glory has departed from Israel because of the capture of the Ark of God and the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband”**.

# Application

- Opposition to evil must extend beyond righteous rhetoric. It also demands separation from those who persist in their iniquity. The apostle Paul reminds us:

“Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? . . . “Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate,” says the Lord. “And do not touch what is unclean.” ([2 Corinthians 6:14–17](#))
- Eli failed to discern his sons’ sins, failed to discipline them for it, and failed to separate himself from their wicked activities. There is no happy ending to his story. God’s judgment came to pass: He used a pagan army as His instrument of wrath to put Eli’s sons to death—along with thirty thousand Israelite soldiers. Then Eli collapsed and died when he heard the news of the carnage ([1 Samuel 4:10–18](#)).

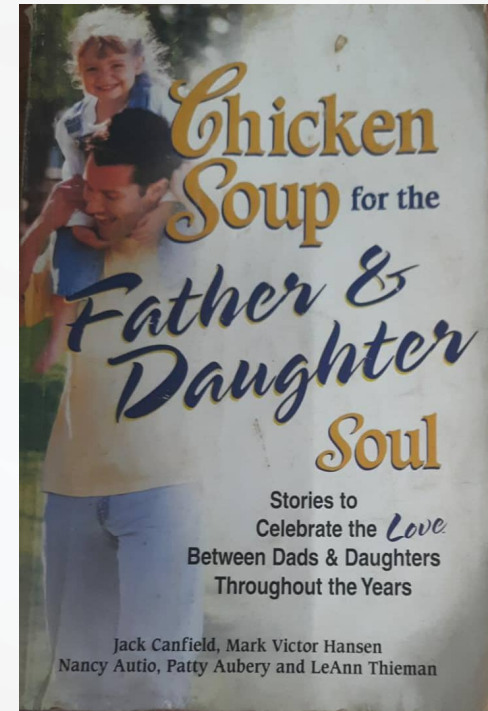
# Application...

There is still hope;

Pray for your children

Role modeling

Talk, Talk and Talk



“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”

(Proverbs 22:6)

# Comments & Questions?

