

Week 25
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Transforming Daily
“... *in like manner* ...”
John 5:19

I frequently use the phrase “more is caught than taught” when encouraging parents to reevaluate their relationship with their children. The bottom line is that children (and even adults) are more influenced by what we do than what we say. At times when frustrated with the lack of our own performance we might say to our children, “do as I say, not as I do.” By the way, that hardly ever works, and may cause a great deal of frustration to mount.

The point is that as much as we desire to see the godly transformation of our children we should desire as much for ourselves to be continually transformed by God. Oversimplified, as we become, we do. Therefore, it could be said that what we do reflects who we are. There is a small degree of influence on the behavior of our children from genetic predisposition. But this can be overcome by recognizing the genetic predisposition in ourselves, and then identifying it in our children (if it exists). Remember though, you are not your children and your children are not you.

Another thing to remember is that while your influence is for a lifetime, you only have a few years early on to do so significantly. For dads, this is a challenge because in those early years we are busy trying to establish our own significance in the lives of others with whom and for whom we work (in other words, we are still growing up). Therefore it is imperative that dads establish right and godly priorities for and with our wives and families.

Dads, what are your priorities? How much time do you spend with your families (including your mothers and fathers, if they’re still alive)? If you don’t plan to, it won’t happen, and years later, your children will conduct themselves in like manner.