

# #RELATIONSHIPGOALS

HELICOPTER, DRONE, AND *Laissez-faire* PARENTING

EPHESIANS 6:1-4



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April 29, 2018

## OUR CHILDREN NEED BOTH PROTECTION AND PREPARATION.

Q: What Is Helicopter Parenting?

A: "It means being involved in a child's life in a way that is overcontrolling, overprotecting, and overperfecting, in a way that is in excess of responsible parenting," Dr. Dunnewold explains."<sup>1</sup>

Q: What Is Drone Parenting?

A: George Sachs, Psy.D., "The Drone Parent: A Helicopter Parent On Steroids."

*Here are ways to know you're a Drone Parent:*

1. You make excuses for your child's bad behavior. The principal, the dean, and the traffic court judge know all about how tired, stressed, and uniquely challenged your child was the day of a particular offense and how passionately you believe your child deserves a second, third, or fourth chance to behave well.
2. You feel obligated to help your kids rise through the ranks of whatever is socially acceptable, sought-after, and superior. Your kids are covered. Name brand clothing? Of course. [Newest] iPhone? What else? A cool car to drive in high school? Done. Insufficient funds?...Your credit card? Maxed.
3. Your kid is safe with a capital S. You are the parent that asks the other kids at the park to play elsewhere while your kid is on the slide. Where you'll stand below, catch him, and wipe his hands with a sanitizing wipe.
4. You're the emotional bubble around your precious angel. No one— no kid, no teacher, no coach, and maybe not even your spouse— can touch your child with anything unkind or unpleasant without bouncing off you first.
5. Your child is you... all over again. Your child makes the right friends on the playground, starts on the team, graduates with honors, and gets into an ivy league college just like you, or just like you wanted to. Who's living that life? Your kid or you?

Q: What is Laissez-faire parenting?

A: No boundaries. “The Laissez-Faire Style “Anything goes!” ... Laissez-faire parents teach their children that all emotions are accepted no matter how the child behaves. This style fails to help children understand emotions or teach them how to manage their emotions. Children raised with this “anything goes” approach:

- May lack the ability to calm down when they are angry, sad, or upset.
- Find it more difficult to concentrate or learn new skills.
- May not do as well in school.
- May not pick up on social cues, and may find it harder to make friends.<sup>3</sup>

### God’s Word on parents and children

Ephesians 6:1-4

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.* <sup>2</sup> “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), <sup>3</sup> “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” <sup>4</sup> *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

### Obeying God by honoring our parents

- **Obey** them in the Lord: Learning to obey our parents is our training ground for learning to obey God – 6:1 *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*
- **Honor** them: Obey them with an attitude of respect – 6:2-3 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), <sup>3</sup> “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” (Deuteronomy 5:16)

Proverbs 23:22

*Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.*

### Guidelines on Christ-centered parenting

- Be **obeyable**: Avoid being overbearing and crushing your child’s spirit – 6:4a *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger,*

Colossians 3:21

*Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

- Protect: Nurture them to **maturity** rather than prolong infancy – 6:4b *but bring them up...*
- **Prepare:** Train them with the “What” and “Why” of God’s truth – 6:4b *but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

### Parenting action steps

- You’re not a bad parent if your children are not in year-round travel sports.
- Your child needs a parent rather than a “Buddy.”
- Your child needs boundaries: You are God’s gift to them to set and enforce biblical boundaries.
- Your child will try to play you against your spouse: Stand firm!
- Be a student of your child’s “wiring” and shepherd them accordingly.
- Aim to please God first rather than your child: The best possible outcome for your child is you following Jesus Christ.

“We can’t deal with our ancestors but we can deal with our dependents.” – Adrian Rogers

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<sup>1</sup> Kate Bayless, “What Is Helicopter Parenting?: Confused about how to be an involved parent without smothering your kids? Here's how to tell if you're a helicopter parent, along with expert advice to curb the hovering,” *Parents.com*, <https://www.parents.com/parenting/better-parenting/what-is-helicopter-parenting/>.

<sup>2</sup> George Sachs, Psy.D., “The Drone Parent: A Helicopter Parent On Steroids,” *Huffington Post*, 02/08/2016, updated December 06, 2017, [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/george-sachs-psyd/are-you-a-helicopter-pare\\_b\\_8528080.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/george-sachs-psyd/are-you-a-helicopter-pare_b_8528080.html).

<sup>3</sup> “Four Parenting Styles,” *Parenting Counts*, 2018, <http://www.parentingcounts.org/information/timeline/four-parenting-styles/>.