



Little Eyes Are Watching You

By Derek Kiser on April 4, 2022

TODAY'S READING: 1 Corinthians 4

One of the greatest joys in my life is having two sons, Jackson and Eli. My oldest, Jackson, is the one with whom I have experienced most of what I am going to talk about, but I look forward to similar moments with Eli who is currently only 11 months old. Jackson and I have spent lots of time working on things together. He has his own tools. I think he was able to name most basic tools by age two. He wants to help. He watches me and gets sad when I have project that I do not want him to help with. As dads of sons, we know we are responsible to help model what it means to be a man. As moms, you realize the same with your daughters.

I think of a song by Rodney Atkins, "Watching You." He talks about his son getting down on his knees at age four and praying like he was talking to a friend. He asked his son where he learned to pray like that? His son said I have been watching you, Dad, ain't that cool.

In 1 Corinthians 4, specifically in verses 14-17, Paul talks about his spiritual son, Timothy, and their relationship. In verse 16, Paul even says something that I would be scared to say but I do understand: "be imitators of me." Paul tells the church to follow his example, as he follows Christ. The scary thing about being a parent to my two sons and a spiritual parent to others is there are others younger than us, or at least younger than us in the faith, who watch everything we do. They are looking for an example of how to live their lives to honor the Lord. A friend of mine from high school told me something I remember to this day. He said, "Your walk talks louder than your talk talks." What he meant is what we do speaks more loudly than what we say. We are kidding ourselves if we think telling our kids and those who look up to us "do what I say and not what I do" really works.

What if you do not have a parent or family member who is a believer? I was asked this question this past weekend at a high school retreat by a young man. I basically said, Welcome to the family--the Church. There are lots of people here who can help you learn what it means to be a man of God. Just as Paul was to Timothy, God has put people in our lives that, even though they may not be our own kids, God wants to use us to be their "father in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

Am I, are you, living a life of intentionality for the eyes that are watching us, our own kids and others who are looking for an example?

PRAYER: God, help keep me close to You and help me be an example to the watching eyes in my own family and in the family of God. Help me have wisdom to share when asked questions.

TOMORROW'S READING: 1 Corinthians 5

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