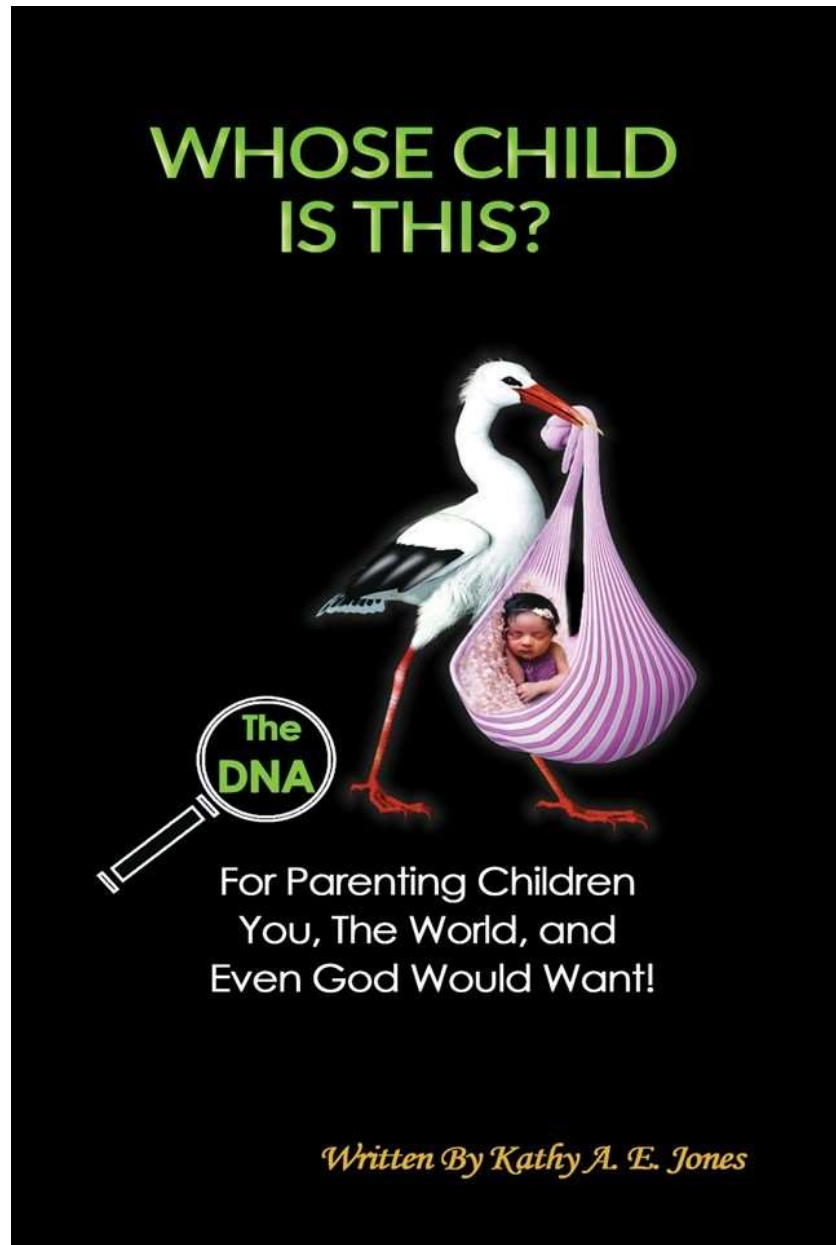




KATHY A. E. JONES

Navigating the Family System



There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children.
One is roots; the other, wings. - Hodding

A *family* is a system. This system is comprised of a group of people whose common goal is the betterment of the whole. This system by nature must have leaders and followers, which primarily teach and learn about and from each other. The success and survival of a family system may at times depend on how it invites or accepts outside forces to help it mitigate turbulent times.

For any system to work at its optimum, there must be a clear understanding of that system's power structure. In the very beginning I believe God set in place a perfect family power structure that if followed would bring love, joy, peace, fulfillment, and the advancement of the best possible health and success anyone could imagine. This family power structure consists of one man marrying one woman and producing their own set of biological children.

God's perfect power structure/system is appreciably important. His master plan strengthens a perfect family structure and rejuvenates the broken/failing family structures. Unfortunately, today we are seeing less and less of God's kind of family structure system infiltrating society. Therefore, it becomes vitally important that we take the time to understand how HIS family power structure/system works. Only then can we hope to strengthen our family and sincerely appreciate the genius of God.

Power Is: The ability to make others do what you want them to do. Most people will agree that there are many kinds of powers; however, the following six tend to stand out in secular society. They are the powers of:

1. Physical force: police
2. Wealth: to buy results
3. State action: government democracy through election,

dictatorship, or force

1. Social norms: ex. marriage equality
2. Ideas: racial equality, etc.
3. Numbers: lots of humans. EX: the Tea Party.

In the world we live in today we need a different kind of power to become God-fearing, productive parents. We should want our children to grow up with a reverence and respect for God's overall plan for their lives and for future generations.

With that in mind, power must be looked at with a completely dissimilar perspective. God's kind of family is enriched when we appreciate and work within the power system he gives for success.

Jesus and his disciples represent for us a type of family system or unit. You could say for the sake of discussion he was a "single parent" with the responsibility of raising 12 children (disciples). Jesus told his disciples (children) that they should be careful to always teach what they learned from him to others who could faithfully teach it throughout generations to come. I believe God did this to preserve HIS power structure system along with its biblical styles of successful parenting.

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2

In fact, the Bible gives us an example of the power God gave to man at the very beginning of time in Genesis 1:28

God blessed them and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and **subdue it**: and have **do- minion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and **over every living** thing that moveth upon the earth. KJV

Remember, power is the ability to make others do what you want them to do.

God gave Adam and Eve that kind of power. We are also given that kind of power in our family's life space. Adam and Eve were put in control of every living thing. It is important that even though we have power we don't abuse it. If we take the time to follow how Adam and Eve misused their powerful positions, we will see how it affected them. Over time their world became infested with sin. The Bible gives us reference to the fact that their children unfortunately also became vicious.

And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. Genesis 4:25

Because God is a God of justice, mercy, and grace He also saved Noah and his family. However, he eventually had to wipe the rest of the world out with a flood. You see many times God just really won't tolerate sin.

Though our world also has become infested with sin, we can't be fearful that if we have children they will go after the world and its sinful ways and then be destroyed like generations prior to Noah.

Instead, we should use the power and authority that God has given each of us to raise healthy families. God is still calling us to joyfully reaffirm the charge given to us by way of Noah in Genesis 9:1: "Be fruitful and multiply."

The **power/authority** that we are given by God permits us to have a roadmap for success as we incorporate that power within the family systems God has granted us to be a part of.

In God's system we have got to do more than just talk about having a healthy family, we must become examples of one.

For the kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God's power. 1 Cor. 4:20 NLT

Behold, I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Luke 10:19 KJV

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to **HIS power** that **works within us**, to HIM be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 NIV

We can and will become awesome parents as we allow God's family system of power to flow through us. As stated earlier, HIS system of power begins with one man marrying one woman and producing their own set of biological children.

There are three basic laws of power:

1. Power flows like water: as such, it should flow like a current through our everyday lives. Just like water is an excellent solvent that is important to all living things, we need to allow God's power to invade our personal family system in such a way that it brings life to every member of our family.
2. Power is not static, because either you are taking action, or you are being acted upon. That means parents cannot just sit around and hope that things, be they good or bad, will eventually work themselves out.
3. Power creates power: it's the way we set up rules that help reproduce the same or greater power through our future lineage. A great example of this is that of the current British monarch, Queen Elizabeth II. She **inherited** the crown from her father,

King George VI. Her monarchy remains constitutionally empowered to exercise the royal prerogative against the advice of the prime minister or the cabinet. In the British royal family today, the throne will pass from **Queen Elizabeth II** upon her death to her son **Prince Charles**. Next in line is **Charles'** eldest son (and Kate's husband), **William**, the current **Duke of Cambridge**.

As you can see, this family used their power to build a family system that extends their legacy and values.

As Christian parents, our primary power goal should be to teach and train our children regarding God's standards and values. We are to raise them to be fully functional adults who can take care of themselves and make a positive contribution to society regardless of the challenges and setbacks they are sure to face. We want them (like the serenity prayer says) to be able to change the things they can, accept the things they cannot change, and for them to have the wisdom to know the difference between them both. Our homes should have joy, order, a place of service, spiritual disciplines, purpose, and grace. As we follow God's family power structure, we can expect the journey for both the child and the parent to be enjoyable.

End of Chapter 3



Thank you in advance or purchasing: “Whose Child Is This?”

The DNA of Parenting Children You, The World, and Even
God Would Want

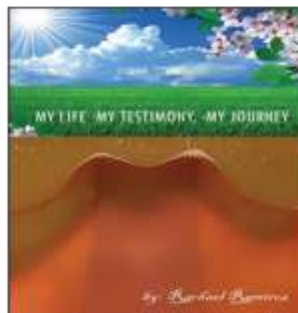
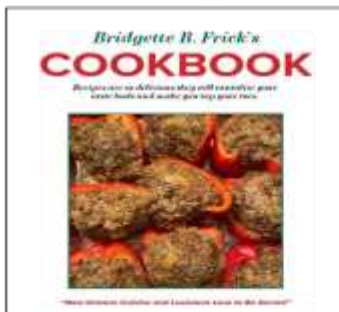
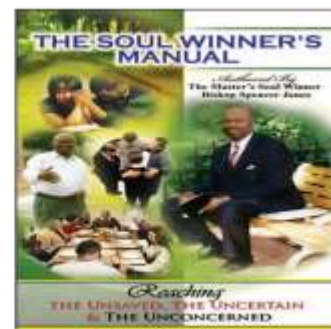
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Reviews

Parenting has its challenges but using Pastor Kathy's DNA approach (Do Not Abandon), will help every member of the family no matter which circumstances they find themselves in, learn to appreciate the fun, frustrations, and uphill battles they will face throughout life. As parents you have rights and responsibilities. In this book Kathy freely shares her personal parenting voyages of birthing two daughters, adopting two sons, and fostering thirty- one children. Her escapades and those of friends, gives the readers helpful tips for working through issues of sexual assault, incarceration, abuse in the educational system and much more. Without a doubt this book will encourage and give you the strength you'll need to parent with success.

**Dr. Edna Geddes,
Mental Health Practitioner**

What more important topic could be addressed than the one Kathy A. E. Jones has addressed - the development of children that everyone, including God would want! We have all been around children that nobody desires to be around. Kathy has presented strategies to first get the child into the world, then to alleviate this unfortunate outcome, including mentoring children and adults. As a former principal, I often saw how important it was for someone, anyone to make a child feel special. That person could be the principal, an administrator, the teacher, a teacher's assistant, a lunchroom worker or a janitor. A smile could make a child want to come to school and change their life. We have to save the next generation and generations to come. Kathy A. E. Jones has started us on that process. Thank you for such a needed book!

**Dr. Joronda Crawford
Retired Chicago Public School Principal**