

# SERMON OUTLINE

Speaker: Rev Dr Danny Goh

**Text** : Psalm 103: 8 - 14; Ephesians 6: 1 - 4

**Title** : **The Power of Two:  
Parenting Together in Our Contemporary Society**

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## *Introduction*

- Two short stories:  
*Little Billy & the father who neglected his daughter*
- Three most frequent statements of fathers:
  - *I'm too busy*
  - *We don't have enough money*
  - *Keep quiet!*

## **A. The Case for Co-Parenting (The 'Whys')**

1. The adverse effects of neglect
  - Studies in Malaysia (The loafers)
  - Studies around the world (Delinquency)
2. The rise and rise of dual-career families
3. The emotional and psychological benefits (Diane Erhenshaft)
  - *A more secure sense of trust*
  - *Successful adaptations to brief separations*
  - *Closer bonds with both parents*
  - *Better discrimination skills*
  - *Great creativity and moral development*
  - *Lesser animosity toward other gender*
  - *Stronger friendship bonds with opposite gender*
4. The scriptural mandate
  - Gen 18:19, Deut 6:4-9, Psalm 78, Book of Proverbs

## **B. The Concretization of Parenting Together (The 'Whats' & 'Hows')**

1. The "Whats" of Co-parenting
  - Dependent on age, gender, personality, interests, stage of development, etc.

2. The “Hows” of Co-parenting (I), Psalm 103:8-14  
[By emulating how God our Father parents us]
  - a. *With compassion and steadfast love*
  - b. *With gentleness, forbearance and forgiveness*
  - c. *By knowing us & being sensitive and responsive to our needs*
  
3. The “Hows” of Co-parenting (II), Ephesians 6:1-4
  - a. The negative command
    - *“Do not provoke ... exasperate ...embitter”*
  - b. The positive injunction
    - *“Bring them up in the instruction and discipline of the Lord”*

Instruction: *Verbal education - reading, praying, talking, teaching, warning, reasoning, persuading, etc.*

Discipline: *Root = disciple = learner, follower.*  
*“... not just the learning of specific skills and facts but acquiring these from a master in whose image one wishes to form oneself because one admires this individual’s work and life. This usually involves sustained, close personal contact, one personality being formed under the impact of the other.”*

### **Conclusion**

- The process of parenting (quality and quantity time)