



Podcast Episode 227  
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## “How to Handle Parenting a Stepchild (Hint: It’s Not Complicated!)”

**David Loy:** Hi and welcome to *In the Loop* with Andy Andrews, I’m your host David Loy. Andy, thanks for joining us again.

**Andy Andrews:** Glad to be here buddy. This is awesome, I love doing this and happy to be here with you and Matthew.

**David:** Now I have a surprise for you Andy, possibly. Not a surprise, possibly, but I saw a video of you that I don’t know that if you know that I have seen or that anyone has seen.

**Andy:** Oh God.

**David:** No, I’m surprising you, the surprise is that you don’t know that I’m gonna talk about this. And we’ll see what you say but if agree...

**Andy:** Good thing these things are recorded.

**David:** If you agree we might figure out a way to show a short clip of this video to our listeners. But I’ll let you decide that.

**Andy:** A video to our listeners.

**David:** Well we could send them a link.

**Andy:** So where did you enjoyed this video, on radio?

**David:** Ok, you are an amazing communicator on stage, you are one of the most sought-after speakers in the world.

**Andy:** Shut up, shut up, what are you talking about?

**David:** But this video that I saw, was of you on stage in front of a room packed full of people and you are not speaking, instead you were singing with some world-class singers. And you were singing the famous song by your good friends, The Oak Ridge Boys, you were singing Elvira. Do you have anything to say about this?

**Andy:** Oh David, David, David, I thought you liked working here.

**David:** I thought the silence, I was wondering if our connection cut out or have you left the room but no, you're still there, you can hear me.

**Andy:** You know, when we were on that cruise.

**David:** And this is The Gaither cruise right?

**Andy:** Yeah. And Bill Gaither, who, God bless Bill, I just love Bill. But he looks around and he says, we have Oak Ridge Boys here tonight, and Jean, Adam, Wesley, and we need a Joe Bonsall, that lead singer, we need. And you know, there's a thousand people in there, just looking right at me. And I reached my hand over to Polly and like squeezed, like, please God, please God, no God, no. We need, we need, Andy, Andy, and he points. And of course everybody looks and I'm like, oh no. And I'm thinking, no, what, what are we going to do? Then I get

up there and Westley and Adam Crabb, Jean, they're all laughing at me already. And so he wanted to do Elvira. This is what Bill wanted to do. And so they had to like feed me the words. I mean, I did it but all I did was, I tell you how I kind of got through it. The way I got through it was, I just shut my mind off and I said, I'm going to try and do an impression of Joe Bonsall. I just kind of thought that, I just shut my mind of, and Wesley fed me the words. But then, and I know the video you're talking about, because Sonya Isaacs took it.

**David:** Oh, I didn't know that she was the one that was recording.

**Andy:** Yeah, she was the one. Her little, greedy, little fingers were down there, below us and Jimmy Yeary, Jimmy wrote the song, I Drive Your Truck.

**David:** Right, yeah.

**Andy:** Wrote Kenny Chesney's last number one single too. In fact, he wrote the song that's out now, Cold Beer Conversations with George Strait. Now Jimmy's just like cackling. And Sonia's taking this video and I'm like, oh please. And of course they send it to Bonsall. They send it to Joe Bonsall. So I've got it somewhere on my cell phone, Dwayne and Joe saying, oh yeah, the bus, we were playing it on the bus and everybody's just laughing.

**David:** I bet they loved it. Maybe if you won't let us, figure out a way to post it, maybe I'll just reach out to Sonya, and see if she'll give it to me.

**Andy:** Well, you already seen it, so you got it. I guess you can post it if you want to.

**David:** Alright, we might figure out a way. I think people would really enjoy that. But I just love, you're in a room of a world class singers, Wesley Pritchard, Adam Crabb, Jean McDonald, all up there on stage with you. And you sang a great lead, I'll tell you, you did a great job.

**Andy:** Thank you David.

**David:** Alright, we had an interesting question come in and I'm curious to get your thoughts on it. So we had somebody write it, Josh wrote in and said, Andy, I would love to get your thoughts on how to parent step kids. You've talked a lot about parenting previously and how it's the fulcrum of our society. But do the same principles apply to step kids? Any guidance would be appreciated. Andy that's a little different spin on a topic I know you've covered quite a bit in the past. But it is an issue that there's a lot of people out there facing and curious to get a perspective that might help out Josh with this question.

**Andy:** Yeah, that's a great question. And you know, get your pen ready or just go on the website and you can get those first 4 videos but I want to urge you to get *The Parenting* series. You know *The Hundred Year Parenting* series that I did, because I got to tell you buddy, Josh, you're gonna parent them exactly the same way. I mean, it'll be a few different words but here's what I want to confirm to you and let you have confidence in knowing. That the reason you're concerned about this, the reason you're unsure about this is because of the way that a lot of us were parented. And you know that if you go to one of these stepchildren, especially if this is a teenager and you go to a stepchild, you cannot say to this child, you know, as long as you're my son, you will not talk to me that way, I'm your father. What's he going to say, you're not my father. And so, with step kids, all those things that parents do that really don't work anyway, all those things, they go right out of the window. And here's the problem, all those things that parents do anyway, they

only think they work, because most parents are raising great kids. And you can raise great, you can raise great step kids because you can make them be great. Because you're bigger than they are and you have all the money. You can make them. Now when they get outside of the house, they get outside of your control, they get away from you at 18, totally different story. I mean, when they're away from you, like for the weekend, totally different story. But it's the difference, are you wanting to parent these kids, are you wanting to raise great kids, or are you, you have these step kids there and you want to raise them. Ok, you're raising them.

So you want to raise them to be great kids and make them do what they should do? Or do you want to raise kids who become great adults? It's two different destinations. And because it's two different destinations, it requires a different pathway to each. Now curiously the pathway to a great kid can be or you can pick that up right on the way, to raising a kid who becomes a great adult. But if you are going to just raise a great kid, then you're going to be in trouble long term. So here's what I'm saying. If you're going to raise a kid who becomes a great adult, then it doesn't matter if this is your biological child or your step child, or the next door neighbor's child that you have an opportunity to have conversations with, ok. Because it all folds into how people really change, not how folks think people change, how they really change. And what really has to be there, it doesn't take time, they don't have to be at the rock bottom, they don't have to have some deep desire. There's only two things. One is, it's going to be something in it for them and then the second thing is, that what you're telling them, you have to get them proof beyond a reasonable doubt. It has to have something in it for them and what you're telling them, it has to make sense to them. It has to go, you know, that's absolutely true. So to make sure that those two things are fulfilled, you want to make sure something's in it for them, communication is the key because you got

to know, if you're going to have something, so here's what's in it for you, well you got to know what they want. Because if you say, well an ice cream cone is in it for you, they may not want an ice cream cone. So if you're saying an ice cream cone is in it for them, and they don't want an ice cream cone, well that was pretty stupid, that's not gonna work. And so you really have to know the kid. And you have to know their desires, desires of their heart. And that's gonna require conversation. And so, and this can be, you know people say, well what I'm just, if I didn't do any of this and now my kid is 15. No worries, you're just gonna change things right now. You're gonna start, you're gonna be a different parent.

Now I'm gonna tell you, all this, there's 8 hours of this, in 10 and 15 minute little videos. You can watch them on your computer or you can download and you can listen to them in your car or you can print them out and read them. But there's 8 hours of this stuff and I'm giving you a little overview right here. And so here's a great thing to do. Is with a 15-year-old is to be sitting down and saying, you know, what do you want to do? If you could wave a magic wand, do you ever think about being away from here? And of course if they're honest, they'll say, sure, I think about being away from here. Ok, now I know you probably can't imagine being 40, can you imagine being 25? Ok, if you could wave a magic wand and all of a sudden you're 25 years old, and you live like you want to and you live where you want to, and you drive what you want to, and you do what you want to. You wake up when you want to and you sleep when you want to, you eat what you want to. Tell me what that looks like? What does it look like? And they'll say, what do you mean, like all teenagers do. And you'll say, well, you know, if you could wave a magic wand where do you live on this planet? What do you mean? And you'll say, well do you wanna live in the mountains, do you wanna live on the water, do you wanna live in the city, do you wanna live in the country? Do you wanna live in America, do you wanna live outside of America? Where do you want, wave a magic

wand. Money's no object, you ain't gonna think about money, just where you wanna go, just kind of a game. And when I asked Austin this, Austin said, on the water. Really? Ok, alright. Ok, so salt water or freshwater? Salt water. Ok, you wanna live on the bay, you wanna live on the beach, the ocean, the gulf, do you wanna live in the Caribbean? Do you wanna live on the North Atlantic, do you wanna live in the Arctic, do you wanna live in the lagoon, do you wanna live in the saltwater river? And he's laughing and he said, the lagoon. I said, really, that was the first I heard that. And I said, you know, kind of a shallow, awesome lagoon near us and I said, really? He said, yeah, I like the lagoon. And I said, well that's very cool. Ok, North side or South side? He said, North side. Really, North side, why North side? He said, well on the North side, I like the woods and on the South side it's just kind of all sand. But on the North side it's sand and it's woods. So I would love to live there. Ok, so what are, where are you living in, you live in a house, apartment, condo, tent, a trailer, what? A house. Hmm, how big is the house? He said, I'm 25? Yeah, you're 25. He said, not big, maybe two or three bedrooms. I said, ok, you're going to rent it, buy it, what are you doing? He said, buy it. How are you gonna buy it, what are your payments gonna be? He smiled at me and he said, not gonna have payments. I said, oh you're not? He said, no sir, I'm gonna be debt free. I said, well Dave would be very proud.

**David:** Dave Ramsey are you listening? Hopefully you are.

**Andy:** And he said, I'm going to be debt free. I said, debt free at 25. Ok, what kind of car? So we go into all this, and it's like, how much time is he gonna have to fish, how much time is he gonna have to do this, how much is he gonna work, what kind of work is he gonna do and what kind of car is he gonna drive? And it will be used Dave, just so you know. And so, in any case, as all this goes on and you know, this happen when he was like 12 or 13, well as all this goes on, as life starts to happen, at one point he became aware that he's gonna buy his own car, when he's

16. Well so at some point he says, what do I? I said, well there's three ways you're gonna go, you're either gonna save all the money you get from birthdays and Christmas and maybe buy an \$800 dollar car in a couple of years. Or you get a job.

Now your job when you're 14, it'll be minimum wage and so if you manage to work 40 hours a week for 52 weeks a year, 2 years, that's, I said, look take the calculator and figure out how much money you'll have for a car. And I said, or you could figure out how to have your own business, how to create value for other people. And then your business, then this business, how valuable are you? How valuable is what you do, how much do you wanna work, what are you willing to do? What kind of car do you want to get? And so as he, and I knew that if he got a job, well his boss is the "go to" guy but if he chooses a business which I knew that's what he would do, then mom and I are the ones he talks to. And also it is such an effective form of discipline because we don't have to say, don't dress like that, don't walk out of this house dressing like that, we don't have to say that. Because all we had to do was, and in fact I try to do these conversations when it's not right now. I try to do these conversations in advance. I preemptive strikes, is what I try to do. And so to have conversations as we're driving around and going, ok, now that guy right there, see that guy? That guy right there, do you like the way he looks? Hmm. Would you want him to work on you as a doctor, if he was a doctor would you go to him? You know, just create scenarios so that at some point he knows, ok, well his business, he manages fruit trees, and the people that have fruit trees, that can pay him to manage these fruit trees, these are not schmucks, these are people that have nicer houses and they have citrus trees in their yards and they have extra money to pay somebody to take care of their citrus trees, alright. Well people who are in that category, they are usually of a general age, they are usually of a general tax bracket, they're usually of a general mindset. And Austin,



if you dress like this way, you will have less of those people that are comfortable with you coming to their house, and doing the work. You dress this way, you will have more people comfortable with you. So you dress this way, you can get this kind of car. You dress this way, you're closer to getting that kind of car. And so I don't have to say, I don't have to tell him. And so this is the same thing. You know Josh, it wouldn't matter if he was a stepchild or a biological kid, this is what's in it for him and that makes total sense. It doesn't matter who you are.

**David:** Well and that's a lot of what you talk about in terms of principles. Principles apply in every situation, they're always true. So this is going to apply for Josh as well as he's seeking advice from parenting step kids.

**Andy:** And so this is everything. This is all the way through it. We had one issue of disrespect. You know, one issue of disrespectful tone of voice and the sarcastic da da daa. And it took me about three minutes to explain that I don't think you wanna do that because it looks really disrespectful, you are not a disrespectful kid and I would hate for people to see you act that way and think you were a disrespectful kid. Because they thought they were, you would not be given the opportunity, you would not be hired, you would not be allowed to date their daughter, you would not be invited to their thing. You would not be invited back, you would not be allowed to. And a million things that people who talk disrespectfully and walk around with a solemn look on their face, a million things that those kind of people get cut out off. And they never know why they weren't invited. They never know why they weren't hired. They never know why they didn't get the job again. They never know, because nobody's gonna tell them. They just don't want them around. And so you can, and so I have proven to him over and over again, your behavior is dollars, it's dollars, it's money. And then when he was 16 and he actually bought the truck and he saw, you know Ty Bullard, who did the deal with him, and Ty told him the price and told him why he was giving

a discount in a certain area. And he said, you with my boys, because Ty has three boys, and they're younger and they love Austin and Adam. And Austin and Adam spend time with them at the camp. And so the way Austin acts, the way he shakes his hands, the way he smiles when he talks, the way he looks people in the eye, this is the way Ty wants his boys to act. And so Ty told Austin, he said, I want to be a part of this, of you getting this car, all this, and I wanna help you with this. Because I want your presence with my boys. And I told Austin later, I said, if this isn't a clear lesson to you that how you act is, I mean, it's not just opportunity, it's money, actually you can put a dollar figure on it. And so, when you're able to explain that and you're able to show that to kids, it doesn't matter if they're your step kids, you biological kids, the kid down the street, it doesn't matter. That's a human thing.

**David:** That's proof. Well Josh, Andy's right, I think he's hit on a bunch of great points today but there's so much more so make sure that you do access those 4 free parenting videos. Andy for anybody that hasn't seen those how can they get those? There's a simple text message thing that we got in place.

**Andy:** Yeah, you can get 33444, it doesn't sound like a text message but that's a text message, ok. So you just text the number 33444 and in the message write PARENTING. 33444 and write PARENTING and then send. And it'll come back to you and you'll be able to connect with us. And we will send you free, 4 free videos. And if you want to spread that phone number around, people at your church, people in your community or people at work, feel free.

**David:** Absolutely.

**Andy:** So it's 33444 and just write PARENTING in there. And it'll come back to you and we will send you 4 free parenting videos, 20-minute videos.

**David:** 20 minute a piece, just almost 80 minutes of content, total there, that I think people, especially Josh, that they'll benefit from. Alright Andy thanks for your time. Josh thanks for a great question. And if you'd like to jump in on future episodes, send us your questions. You can email us [intheloop@andyandrews.com](mailto:intheloop@andyandrews.com) or call and leave us a voicemail and we'll try and play that on a future episode. That phone number is 1-800-726-2639. Again that's 1-800-726-Andy. And we will try to get to that down the road. Andy thanks for your time, we'll talk to you next week.

**Andy:** Ok buddy, see you then.

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**Would you like to run something by Andy? Contact us and your question might be featured on the show!**

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