



My Drift

Title: Kids

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Below are some interesting ideas about parents and kids from a friend and former co-worker Steven Barnes. Please read his thoughts/ideas and if you have any comments or other ideas on the subject, let me know.

The following sets up my scenarios:

I don't understand parents' behavior! I realize it's a chemical reaction in their body, their minds/brain. They can't control it. I can accept it in animals as instincts. But humans? I accept it's there; it happens. But I don't understand why their logic doesn't balance this same animal instinct.

I accept that my words are unattractive – maybe some would say revolting. I mean they do not put me in the best light. My thoughts do not come from how people that I know raise their children. This comes from a lifetime of watching people's behavior. I am not trying to be insulting to parents, but it will seem as though I am. Sorry. Just looking at this factually without feelings.

I'm not talking about anyone specifically, it's just that something happens when a person transitions from being single to being a parent. Parents are both unselfish and selfish. They put their children ahead of all things. They will put their children ahead of themselves, their own lives. I think this is where the animal instinct to sacrifice themselves is wrong.

If a parent gives up their own life for their child, who's going to raise the child? I have seen examples where there's only one parent, no grandparents, and the parent died, leaving "the state" responsible – someone else, some system to raise their kids. Funny though, society allows this. That's wrong. I cannot see a child's life being more important, worth more than an adult's. That too I do not understand. And I say it makes no sense.

That transition – to me, is not useful, it makes people do things that they would not do if they were not parents. As unselfish as it makes a person become for their own children, it makes them even more selfish towards other children that are not theirs. Let me explain. Remember we are discussing responsibilities and obligations as citizens. It is not about generosity.

We need a baseline. The baseline starts with three examples or components.

- 1. One is a person – that is not a parent.**



People without Kids

- 2. The next is a person that becomes a person with kids – a Parent. For my writing, they are no longer a Person; they are only described now as Parent with their own kids. For my discussion, anyone may put themselves in the shoes of Parent, and reflect on what I am saying as if you were thinking of themselves only.**



Working Parents with Kids

3. The final example is others or “Everyone” this describes Everyone else that has their own kids and excludes Persons with no kids of course. So, we have Person, Parent and Everyone.

Let’s say a Person lives on a street where other parents and kids live. It does not matter if all kids are in a single or two parent family. Person lives by themselves, works hard, earns a living. Person banks some extra cash every paycheck.

(There are two types of Parents, those who work hard and support their family and those who don’t work and live off the state welfare system. Below are Steve’s comments on welfare parents.)



Welfare Family with 6 Kids

Welfare Parent never has any extra money. Parent adds another kid so now has two kids and now has even less money to raise their two kids. Naturally it gets (worse) tighter with three or four kids. It’s just economics. Parent qualifies to collect food stamps, free cell phone, free/reduced cost Internet and cable. Gets a reduced rate for bus rides for kids going to school. Kids get free breakfast and lunch at school. Signs up and gets subsidies for utilities. Overall, Parent lives as well as Person since someone else is picking up so much of the expense for the kids. The federal government does not subsidize this. This is money in the form of higher taxes that Person must pay just to have it directly or indirectly given to Parent. Why should a parent get free stuff because they have less disposable income than Person? If we are going to give free stuff to Parents, we should also give free stuff to Persons. In effect giving to both Person and Parent wipes out the subsidies. But isn’t that the way is supposed to be? You raise your children? It not supposed to be “we” raise your children.

We also know there's nothing that stops some Parents from having three, four or even more kids. They often do, and I suspect it's because they learn the system quickly. The burden is falling on the State to support them, not the Parent. If it falls on the State, there is more spent on these kids than all kids as a whole. Less is spent for public schools. Maybe less spent on teaching because we are buying their food. Or I guess nothing spent to provide free two years of college for everyone, because too much goes to Parents that have too many kids.

Now, shifting gears a little, here's some hypnotical scenarios.

Let me clarify what "Everyone" means. Everyone is everyone who is not the parent of the kid or kids in the following scenarios.

Situations. A choice must be made.

1.

Person goes through life working, playing, planning, or enjoying life with fewer responsibilities than Parents and Everyone. Person is walking down a sidewalk next to road where there's a bridge. Person sees two kids and does not know either one. Two kids are playing on the bridge, and both fall off the side. Person runs up and grabs both by the shirt collar. Person can quickly assess that the distance will likely kill either that falls and hits the rocks below.



Person tries to haul both up over the safe side. But cannot. Person does not have the strength to save both, and Person could fall to their own death if trying to save both.

- a. Does Person turn loose the girl or the boy?
- b. Does Person turn loose the younger of the two?
- c. Does Person turn loose the heavier of the two?
- d. Does Person turn loose both, since Person is unable to save both?

2.

Parent is walking down a sidewalk next to road where there's a bridge. Parent sees two kids and does not know either one. Two kids are playing on the bridge and both fall off the side. Parent runs up and grabs both by the shirt collar. Until this moment, Parent didn't realize but now does, that one of the kids is Parent's kid (their own child) and begins trying to haul both up over the safe side. But cannot. Parent does not have the strength to save both, so has to let one go.

- a. Does Parent turn loose the girl or the boy?
- b. Does Parent turn loose the younger of the two?
- c. Does Parent turn loose the heavier of the two?
- d. Does Parent turn loose both since Parent is unable to save both?
- e. Does Parent turn loose the other kid and save only their own because they can't save both?
- f. How will Parent explain to Everyone that they saved their own child at the expense of saving Everyone's child?
- g. Will Everyone prosecute Parent for allowing other kid to die if only Parent's kid is saved?
- h. Does Parent turn loose their own kid and save the other because they can't save both?
- i. Parent is running out of strength and time. Does Parent turn loose of their own heavier/older kid and save the other because simply can't pull their own kids back up?
- j. This is the ultimate selfish act that I am talking about. Putting Parent's child ahead of all things, all others – it's the epitome of being selfish. (Parent is absolutely defensive but is Parent's actions justified?)
- k. How does Parent live with themselves all the rest of their lives knowing they were so selfish to put their child ahead of Everyone's child?

3.

Parent is walking down a sidewalk next to road where there's a bridge. Two kids are playing on the bridge. As Parent gets closer, recognizes one of the kids is their own and the other is not, but a friend's kid. Parent's kid intentionally clearly pushes other kid off of the bridge. Parent runs up, pulls their kid off the

railing and looks over the railing. Friend's kid has fallen to their death and is laying on the rocks below.

- a. Parent calls 911 and reports kid's fall, death and stays at bridge until aid arrives.
- b. Does the Parent tell Police and Everyone that other kid simply jumped or fell off the bridge?
- c. Does Parent tell Police and Everyone that their kid pushed the other kid off the bridge? This means Parent's kid will be prosecuted and go to jail or juvenile detention for 20 years.
- d. Does Parent allow Police to talk/interview their kid about situation, knowing their kid might reveal the truth and be arrested.
- e. Parent's kid wants to tell Police, Does Parent allow kid to tell Police they pushed other kids off the bridge?

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4.

A Bystander was close enough to clearly see the entire incident before the Parent reached the bridge. The Bystander explains what they saw the Parent's kid do. The Bystander tells the Police and Everyone that the Parent was close, looking straight at and saw everything when Parent's kid pushed other kid off the bridge.

- a. Does the Parent deny/refute the comments of the Bystander to the Police and Everyone? Does the Parent try to discredit the Bystander?
- b. Can Parent live with themselves all the rest of their lives knowing they were so selfish to put their child ahead of other child?
- c. What would you do if you were Person above in these situations?
- d. What would you do if you were Parent above in these situations?
- e. Is it hard or harder for you to be Person since you are now Parent?

5.

Person is wearing headphones looking at their damn phone and doesn't even see the kids hanging on the bridge and walks right by – both fall to their death. Would anyone fault Person or hold Person accountable. Everyone (Government) won't prosecute Persons that are stupid. Person likely feels bad but will sleep okay tonight. Yes, unfeeling, but probably true.

6.

Parent is wearing headphones looking at their damn phone and doesn't even see the kids hanging on the bridge and walks right by – both falls. How does Parent explain to Everyone that they didn't help either child? Would anyone believe they didn't see them? Everyone's general immediate action is to look for the fault, look at something in the worse possible way. The worse way.

a. What would you do if you were Person? Hard for you to be Person since you are now Parent.

b. What would you do if you were Parent above in this situation?

I don't really need an answer(s). The entire point is to make us think. I am sorry to say, I think I know what Person would do, what Parent would do, and what Everyone's reactions are. Can you answer these questions? Would not surprise me that no one would try to answer these questions. However, my choices would be the same, but my actions would most probably be different if I was single, parent or married parent. I think I know what my action to the choices would be.

One last thing. As you read this, notice that I said, I think, I don't answer with I feel. And as you go about the rest of your day, your week, listen closely for those you hear, whether in life or maybe on TV/radio. Regardless, if it's a discussion, a commercial, a TV show, - wherever. Listen to what people say, it's I feel this, I feel that.

Example: I feel like I was cheated at the garage today. I feel like she didn't mean what she said. I feel like buying a new coat. Those feelings come from the heart, more reaction than thinking. Too many people perform actions based on "feelings". They are not thinking the plan through. They are not thinking of the consequences. They feel. I know that I think. You don't hear me say, I feel or I felt. I save feelings for romance.

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