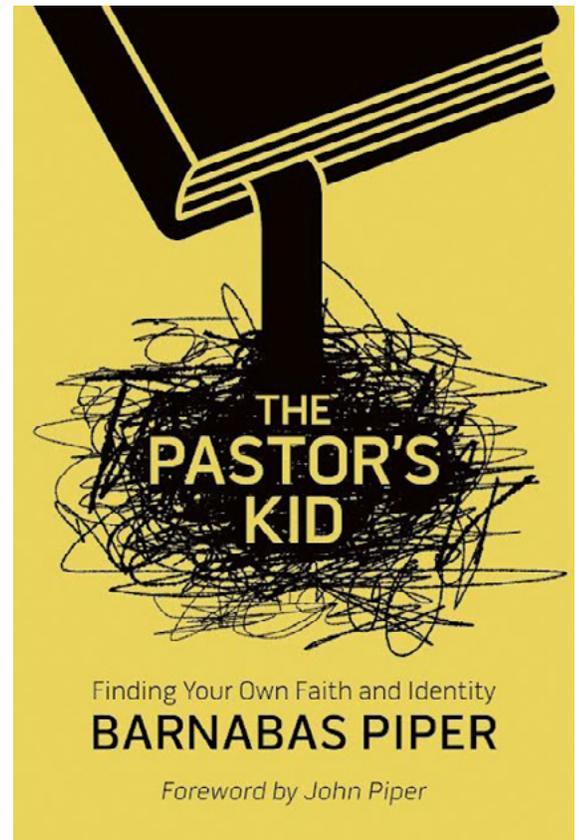


The Pastor's Kid

An interview with Barnabas Piper by Attorney Noel Sterett

If you are or know a pastor or a pastor's kid (PK), I'd recommend buying a copy of the recently released book "The Pastor's Kid," by Barnabas Piper. In it, Barnabas shares his insights on the stereotypes, expectations, and pressures of living as a PK. His story may be slightly different than the average PK, being the son of renowned biblical scholar and pastor John Piper, but his stories of Sunday School teachers demanding biblical brilliance in the classroom, church members expecting superior behavior at church and the struggles to find spiritual identity still are likely similar to the situations many PKs find themselves in because of their parent's role as a church leader. Read our interview for more on Barnabas' work.



What has been the feedback on your book so far from pastors or other PKs?

The overwhelming response has been positive. When I set out to write this book I had a sense that there was a significant need, but the responses from PKs have blown me away. Some have shared stories of how this has unlocked things they haven't been able to deal with before. Others speak of how gratifying it is to have someone who finally understands. Pastors have written to say it has opened doors to talk to their kids in ways they never could have before. Others have said it is preparing them for when their young children begin to really face the pressures of ministry.

All these are things I hoped would happen, but to see God actually doing them is unbelievable.

We have a lot of clients that are pastors. Why would you encourage them to read this book?

Two primary reasons. First, to better understand what their kids are dealing with. From the outside it is nearly impossible to gauge what is going on in a child's heart, and PKs face unique pressures. I think this book could open the eyes of pastors to just how significant the challenges their kids face are.

Second is because it can help bridge the gap between pastors and their kids. I had a long-time pastor say that after reading my book he asked his prom-queen, all-city athlete daughter – the one who looked like she had it all together – about some of the things I wrote about. She broke down in tears, mostly of relief that she could finally talk through things with him. I pray my book will bridge a gap many pastors might not even realize exists.

How has writing this book helped your relationship with your father?

I think it mostly helped on my side, meaning I processed a LOT through preparing to write this. I had to get to a place where I felt I could write a book that was respectful, honoring, to my dad but also honest. That means I had to be focused on grace and writing from a place of growth and maturity rather than hurt or bitterness. In all, this book helped me come to terms with my dad's weaknesses and appreciate even more his strengths and all the ways he has been a great father.

Order ["The Pastor's Kid"](#) or visit Barnabas Piper's [blog](#) to find out more about his work.