

Captivated Hearts



Understanding what Captures
our Kid's Hearts

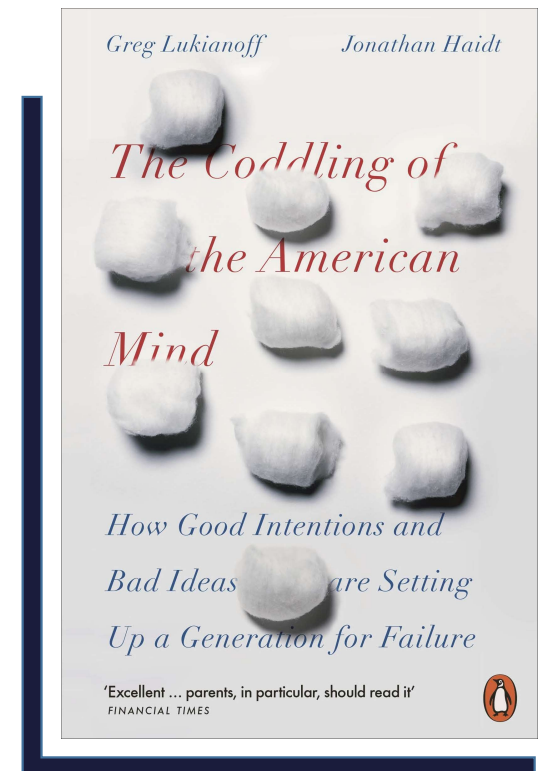
When I was your age...

“Weird Al” Yankovic

*Do kids have it
harder or easier today?*

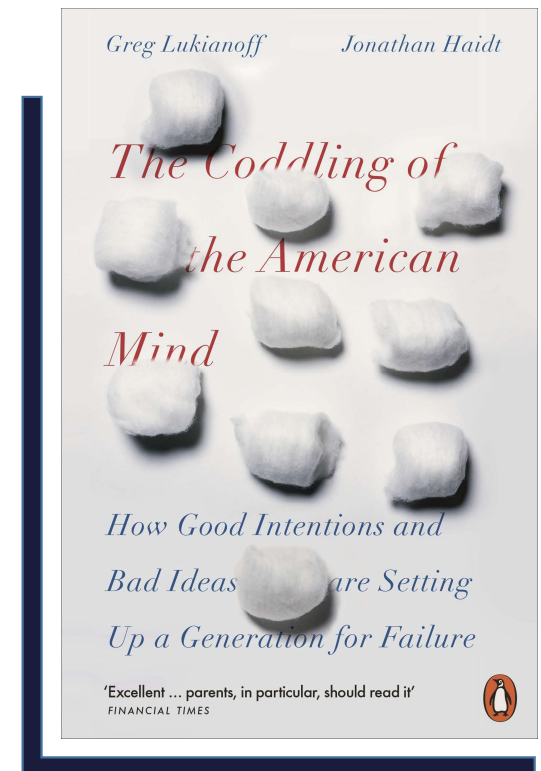
Safetyism

"Given that risks and stressors are natural, unavoidable parts of life, parents and teachers should be helping kids develop their innate abilities to grow and learn from such experience. There's an old saying: "Prepare the child for the road, not the road for the child." But these days, we seem to be doing precisely the opposite...



Safetyism

If we protect children from various classes of potentially upsetting experience, we make it far more likely that those children will be unable to cope with such events when they leave our protective umbrella" (23-24).



Our kids are surrounded by captivating messages
Our kids' hearts are hard-wired to be captivated
Our kids need to be captivated by a better story

**Our kids are surrounded
by captivating messages**

“GEN Z”

- ✓ 1995-2009
- ✓ Longer in formal education
- ✓ Much of life indoors and on screens
- ✓ Tech-savvy multi-taskers
- ✓ Up-aging

“In less than a century, the onset of puberty in girls has gone from 14.6 years (1920) to 10.5 years today, with the trend similar for boys, with puberty on setting before the age of 12.”

TIM KELLER: FIVE CULTURAL NARRATIVES

1. The rationality narrative: the natural, material world is the only reality
2. The history narrative: history is always making progress
3. The society narrative: individuals are free to choose their own life
4. The morality or justice narrative: a deep commitment to social justice, universal benevolence and human rights
5. The identity narrative: our identity is found in our dreams and desires

LIVE YOUR DREAM

You can be whatever you want to be

A dream is a wish your heart
makes

When you're fast asleep
In dreams you lose your
heartaches

Whatever you wish for,
you keep



BE YOURSELF

What's right for you is right for you

Mulan - Reflection



*Look at me
I will never pass for a perfect bride
Or a perfect daughter
Can it be
I'm not meant to play this part*

*Now I see
That if I were truly to be myself,
I would break my family's heart*



*Who is that girl I see
Staring straight, back at me
Why is my reflection someone
I don't know*

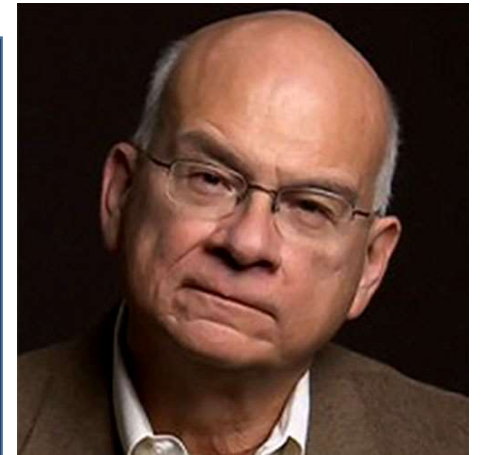
*Somehow I cannot hide
Who I am, though I've tried
When will my reflection show
who I am inside*

*When will my reflection show
who I am inside*

Significance

“You cannot get significance through self-recognition; it must come in great measure from others. In the end, you can’t name yourself or bless yourself... We need someone from outside to say we are of great worth, and the greater worth of the person telling us so, the more powerful that recognition is to our identity formation. So if we try to authenticate and validate ourselves, we place ourselves in an infinite loop of delusion that will lead to either narcissism or self-loathing.”

Tim Keller



YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE HAPPY

Happiness comes from freedom

Frozen – Let it go!

*It's funny how some distance
makes everything seem small
And the fears that once controlled me
can't get to me at all
It's time to see what I can do
To test the limits and break through
No right, no wrong,
no rules for me
I'm free
Let it go, let it go...*



CRIES OF THE HEART

- ✓ a cry for recognition
- ✓ a cry for respect
- ✓ a cry for success
- ✓ a cry for belonging
- ✓ a cry for freedom

How do you see these narratives impacting our kids?

- Live your dream
- Be yourself
- You have a right to be happy



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THE HEART

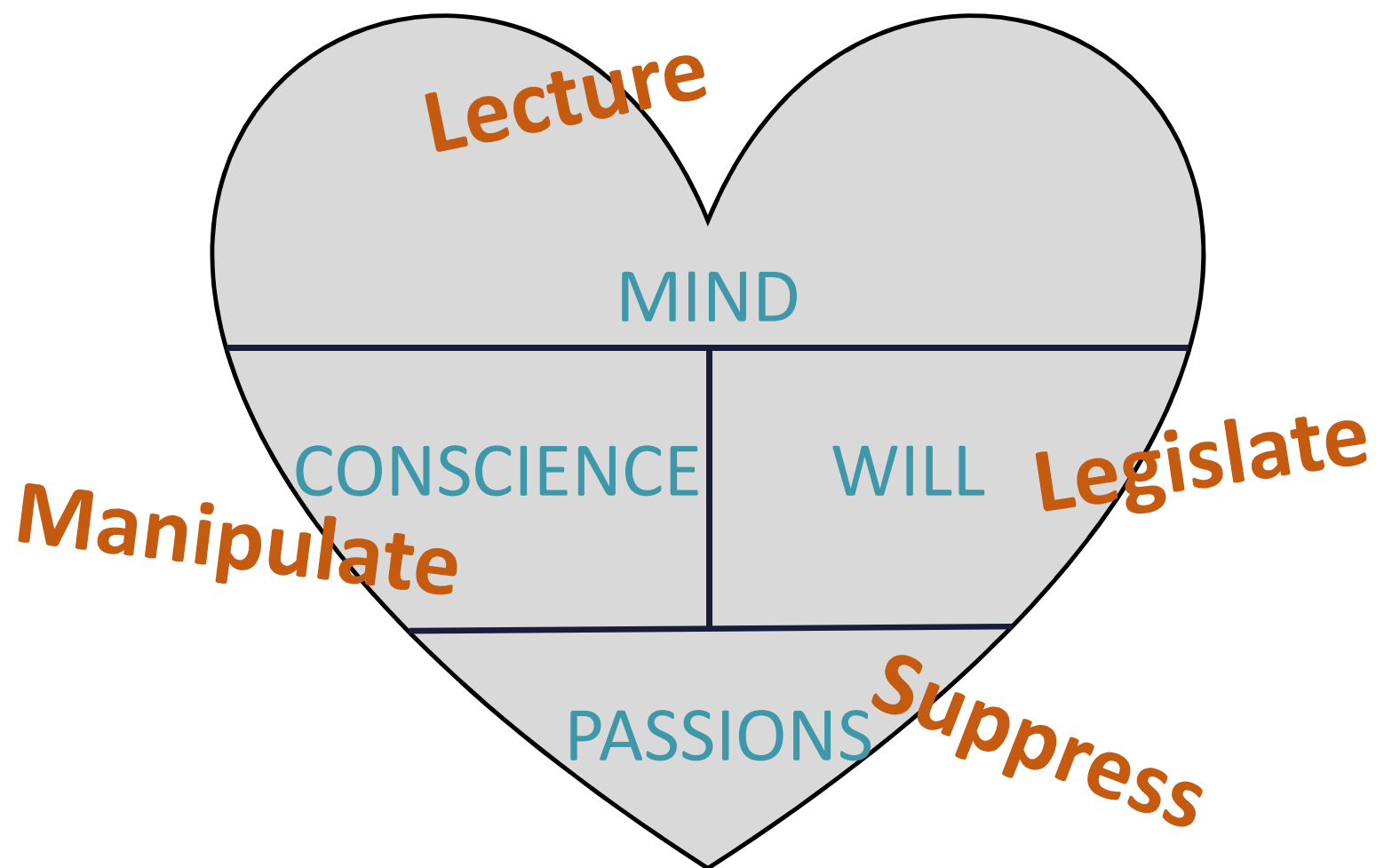
“In the Bible, the ‘heart’ is an amalgamation of ideas, beliefs, values, feelings, and memories. It is the interior motivational structure that produces behavior.” Jeffery Archers

THE HEART

Designed to worship God

Constantly chasing

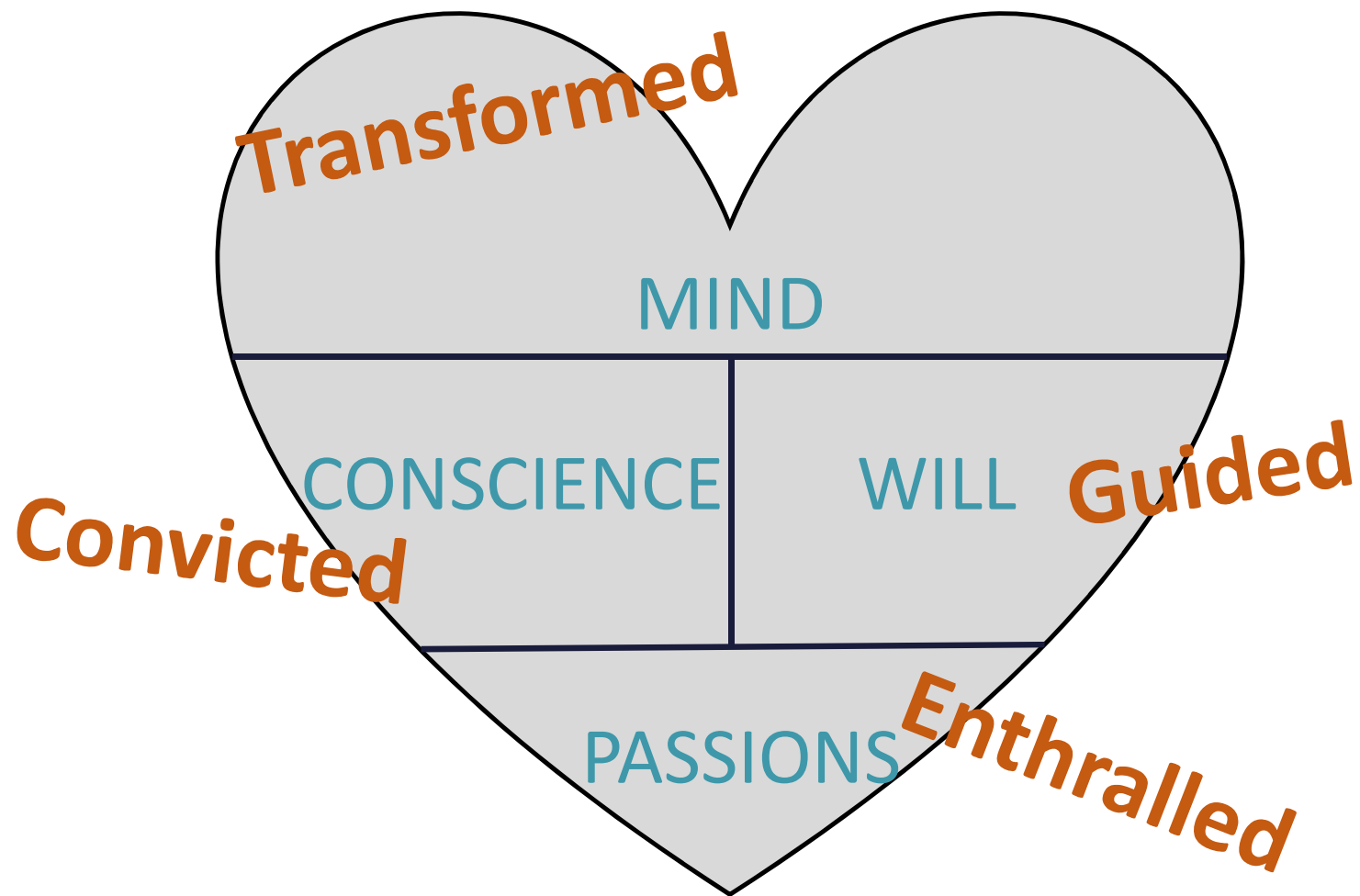
Captivated – enthralled or locked up?



Two problems

Behaviour modification doesn't change the heart

Controlling hearts sets the bar far too low



Which “lock down” strategies are you most drawn to?

- Lecturing
- Manipulating
- Legislating
- Suppressing



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A BETTER STORY

The gospel story

LIVE YOUR DREAM

- Cry for recognition, to be special
- But only a few make it
- And they're not very happy!



Live your dream?

- or live in God's story which is far better than you ever dreamed of

BE YOURSELF

- Cry for true identity
- But we can't be ourselves by ourselves
- Value is given by others

Be yourself?

- or become a new person in Christ which is far better than your old self



YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE HAPPY

- Cry for happiness and freedom
- But we're not very happy
- Happiness is not something you can pursue
- It is a by-product of pursuing other things



You have a right to be happy?

- Or you can find in Christ a joy which is far better than any happiness we can make for ourselves

THE GOSPEL STORY NEEDS TO BE...

- Told to them a hundred different times
- Lived before them in a hundred different lives
- Applied to their lives in a hundred different situations

HELPING THEM...

- run to God when they are hurt, unsuccessful, anxious, lonely...
- see that they, like us, are sinful, needy, vulnerable, scared
- experience the consequences of their own sin
- confess when they're wrong
- discover the wonder of being loved and forgiven
- take responsibility for their actions
- find and set wholesome boundaries
- guard their own hearts
- make unselfish choices

WE CAN'T CHANGE THEIR HEARTS

But God can!

The story they need
is the story we need!

Live your dream?

- or live in God's story which is far better than you ever dreamed of

Be yourself?

- or become a new person in Christ which is far better than your old self

You have a right to be happy?

- or find in Christ a joy which is far better than any happiness we can make for ourselves

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