

"Whose Way on Life's Highway?"

Proverbs 22:6

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Background

The 38.5-mile stretch of I-280 that connects Cupertino and Daly City has been called "the World's Most Beautiful Freeway" — and it's not hard to see why! It could have been, however, were it not for the extra width afforded to drivers when its lanes were painted. I-280's wide lanes allow drivers to appreciate the beauty of the Californian landscape with less fear of crashing. There was a certain wisdom in the design of I-280, a wisdom we as a church may apply to how we disciple the newest drivers on life's highway. Join us this Sunday as we continue our August Series, "Church as Family"!

Sermon Text *Proverbs 22:6*

*Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it.*

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?

- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

2. Sunday Questions:

1. Balancing the "Didactic" and "Attuned" Lanes

Pastor Eugene outlined three ways to read Proverbs 22:6—didactic ("the way they should go"), ironic ("the way they prefer"), and attuned ("according to their way").

- How have you traditionally understood this verse, and how does viewing it through an "attuned" lens change your approach to parenting or mentoring?
- What are the practical indicators that a child or mentee needs narrow-lane instruction versus wider room to discover their own unique identity?

2. Dismantling Control Born from Anxiety

The sermon warns that parental love and protection can easily slip into high control, creating stress, power struggles, and relational strain.

- In what areas of life or ministry do you struggle to release control over those you are trying to guide?
- How can we communicate love so that children and mentees perceive genuine grace rather than conditional performance expectations?

3. Practicing "I-280" Grace in Everyday Life

Comparing US-101 to Interstate 280, the sermon notes that wide lanes offer margin for drift, safety, and room to delight in the journey.

- What does it look like practically to "paint wide lanes" for "student drivers" in your home or church community?
- How can we cultivate the gracious mindset that struggling or messy individuals are simply doing "their best"?

4. Spiritual Parenting as a Whole Community

Drawing on 1 Thessalonians 2, the message highlights how Paul—who was single and child-free—spiritually parented believers with gentle, nursing-mother care.

- Regardless of your personal family status, how can you actively participate in the "driver's education" of the next generation?
- What barriers prevent us from offering "loving looks instead of judging looks" to parents and children in our community?

5. Reshaping Our Blueprint of God

The sermon notes that early experiences with older authority figures often become the underlying blueprint for how individuals relate to God.

- How has your own upbringing shaped your perception of God's discipline, authority, and grace?
- How does Jesus' offer of a "well-fitted" yoke (Matthew 11:28–30) reshape how we approach our own growth and how we disciple others?