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What does it feel like to be a child? Take a second and breath deep, close your eyes. Imagine yourself nine or ten years old, enjoying a warm summer day, interacting with friends on the playground or at school, just being. Notice the way your entire body feels, any emotions that come up and let the memories run wild. Try to really take yourself back, witness, and feel the thoughts and desires of your inner child.

Coming back to the present, how does this feel in comparison to you on an average day? Is it generally better or worse? It's a little sad, but I would venture to guess that for the average individual the answer is the latter.

For the average human, the first ten to thirteen years of life start so simply, with no models or expectations for life. That thing you have been worrying about all of your adult life - where was it then? Or since we are Bitcoiners, how about that passionate distrust of the current system? For me, it's pretty plain to see - I grew up. But what the hell does that even mean?

It seems that up until this point in humanity's accepted history, "growing up" means taking our clean slates from childhood and drawing mental models, identities, and protections. If any of these things break through the process, we hide away the pain and build something stronger on top of the rubble. The more deeply rooted in these things one can become, the more he is honored as "mature". We ossify these things to the point where our entire lives become one enormous distortion.

Sadly, the cycle continues when we have kids of our own. Our children experience the same filters inherited in their physical bodies, and we assist in their ossification by providing examples and directions on how to bury fear and pain. This is the way it's been for a very, very long time. Distortions have been building on top of one another generation after generation, like putting on layers and layers of reading glasses until light itself becomes imperceivable.

Now that I have all of you sufficiently bummed out, let's explore why I feel compelled to start this conversation. One could say this is a bit of a selfish endeavor, but for better or worse, one of my most robust programs has been to become better in every way possible; including, since May of 2020, becoming the best father I can be. That coupled with an insatiable curiosity, has inspired me to bring together like-minded people to start having serious conversations about how we are raising our kids.

For me, nothing is off the table when it comes to this topic. I actually feel uncomfortable writing that sentence, but if Bitcoin has taught me anything, it is that the faster I can shatter my models and question my programming, the brighter my light becomes.

So welcome to Conscious Parenting, this is a place to commune with people dedicated to discovering parenthood's true mission. People who believe in their power as sovereign individuals, who wish to parent from example and love instead of control and fear. This is a place for people who know in their hearts that we have just as much to learn from our children as our children do from us.

It has been far too long since we have apathetically sat back and let life happen to us and our families. It is time we take our fate back into our own hands, stop bending to our fears and distortions, and set examples of decentralized truth for our children. Through universal reverence of our souls and their sovereignty, our world will completely change, one parent at a time. Welcome to conscious parenting, I'm excited to start this journey with you all!

Here are a couple of articles you might find helpful for some further context to this paper

Bitcoin is for Suckers by Caleb - Caleb's rabbit-hole story

<u>Decentralized Money and Spirituality by Sama Katharo</u> - A starting point for those just beginning to learn about decentralized spirituality