



# Building Better Families: A Practical Guide to Raising Amazing Children

*Matthew Kelly*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# Building Better Families: A Practical Guide to Raising Amazing Children

*Matthew Kelly*

**Building Better Families: A Practical Guide to Raising Amazing Children** Matthew Kelly

This book is a new release and has a publication date of February 28, 2008.

## Building Better Families: A Practical Guide to Raising Amazing Children Details

Date : Published February 26th 2008 by Ballantine Books (first published January 1st 2008)

ISBN : 9780345494535

Author : Matthew Kelly

Format : Hardcover 208 pages

Genre : Parenting, Religion, Faith, Self Help, Relationships, Nonfiction

 [Download Building Better Families: A Practical Guide to Raising ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Building Better Families: A Practical Guide to Raising ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Building Better Families: A Practical Guide to Raising Amazing Children Matthew Kelly**

---

## **From Reader Review Building Better Families: A Practical Guide to Raising Amazing Children for online ebook**

### **Zacaro Caro says**

So I got this audio book from the back of church through the lighthouse, life house... Anyway, I bought a physical copy so I could highlight it. My favorite way to read a good "self help" book, and a "bad" habit from school that I never grew out of. But I gave that book away and bought 3 more copies. I don't think I have a physical copy anymore... So I bought it again.

As a Catholic father I like this book more than I like Steven Covey's books, which is saying something. A 35 year old single man telling me how to be a father. For some guys that doesn't work, I mean, most cases those guys are not even attempting a life of authenticity. Mathew Kelly, would make a great father, and the advice he gives comes from a person who knows how to love and guide others to live authentically, that's what fatherhood is, living the way you want your children to live. I work with the Knights of Columbus and am very excited to get to hear Mathew Kelly this July, even though he isn't a life insurance professional, he will say something exciting and motivating that I will leave asking myself, what can I do to see more people and help more people and be the best version of myself?

Though I did feel this lack of 1st hand experience showed in a few areas. Some good ideas, research, and mostly well done.

---

### **Alanna Angel says**

A nice, quick, motivating read. Actually, I listened to the audio version, and the author was a decent narrator. Many great ideas for raising kids. While I did get a little tired of hearing "the best version of yourself", his point was well taken. I would have liked my husband to listen to it as well, as the ideas would be best implemented by both parents. I recommend this book for any parent trying to to their best to raise loving and motivated kids.

---

### **Christine Chapman says**

Really made me think about the culture that our kids are facing these days and how opposite it is to my values in so many ways. It talks about helping our children create a "Best-of" version of themselves. I liked some parts so much that I actually took notes so I could remember certain points - haven't done that much since college.

---

### **Dayna says**

I listened to this book on CD. It took me nearly three weeks of regular listening due to frequent stopping and re-listening. So many great stories and ideas that it is difficult to soak it all in quickly. Several ideas have changed my personal mission for my family and I am applying many ideas to our home! Such a fun author!

### **Christine says**

Just discovered Matthew Kelly. I thought his book as really good. His philosophy in life is life changing and I believe will help me to be a better me, wife and mother. I listened to this book and really enjoyed his voice. Would highly recommend this book especially to people with young children. Even people with older children or grandchildren should read this book as he explains how to help the young people in our life to find their vocation (calling)not just be focused on making money.

---

### **Lynne Griffin says**

A terrific parenting book with a dash of social context and a touch of contemporary reality, I strongly recommend Matthew Kelly's book on what children need to grow up emotionally healthy and spiritually grounded.

---

### **Richard Stephenson says**

I like it!

Surprisingly good coming from a guy with no kids or "first hand" experience. Though I did feel this lack of 1st hand experience showed in a few areas. Some good ideas, research, and mostly well done.

---

### **April Corbett (Dorris) says**

I bought this as an audio book for a friend and decided to listen to it myself. It contains practical advice and is a must read (or listen) for parents. Since I don't plan to have children, the subject matter didn't interest me as much. But if I ever decide to become a parent, I will revisit this title.

---

### **Amy says**

I read this book for a discussion group at church... had it not been for that, I would have quit after the first few chapters. A 35 year old man who has never been married and never had kids has no business telling me how to raise mine.

One whole chapter is spent describing his own family, including personality traits of each of his many brothers... why on earth did I need to read that?

Kelly's theory that everything in life can be decided by asking whether or not it will help you become "the very best version of yourself" is interesting... but his attempts to relate this to parenting are lacking in reality. I literally laughed out loud when he suggested that young children's questions can always be answered by posing some version of this question. When my child asks for a snack, I'm to answer by asking her if that

---

food will help her to be the best version of herself, or whether there is another snack food that might be better. Seriously??? I get the idea-- encouraging healthy choices-- but clearly he has never faced a hungry child who wants a snack, not a philosophy lesson.

Kelly's general ideas are ok, but I didn't find any practical advice or any realistic plans for how to impliment these ideas in daily life. I wouldn't recommend this book to anyone.

---

### **Sara says**

This book basically takes Matthew's running theme, (the theme he always speaks and writes on), and tailors it to the family. And what is that theme? Well, quite simply it is asking how or what are you doing to become "the best version of yourself." In this instance, the question is when you parent, what are you doing to be the best parental version of yourself? What guides your decision-making processes? Not only "are you talking to your kids?", but are you asking the right questions of them? If you are a parent and like any of Matthew's other works, this should have a place on your bookshelf. It's NOT a discipline book and it's not a blueprint for parenting. It's more like an examination of conscience - something to help guide and clarify your own thinking on how to best raise your children and care for your family.

---

### **Tobey says**

just picked it up at the library.

good reminders. i wouldn't call it so practical. i'm sure it's actually pretty annoying in the hands of desperate housewives trying to invite calm into chaotic homes. just some overarching principles without the benefit of meted steps toward implementation.

but it did inspire me to get off my duff and do the "so you think you can dance, get fit" video & tell my husband what "we" could be doing better ;).

like i said, not so practical.

---

### **Mark says**

Given my background, this book had few new ideas for me, but it articulated ideas that I was already familiar with, sometimes things I had only thought privately or even secretly, and articulated them extremely well, and in new and interesting ways. I don't read a lot of parenting books, and those I do read are all too often pop psychology garbage which will be abandoned in a few years as a new parenting trend becomes fashionable, but Kelly addresses universal and fundamental moral principles of parenting in an orderly and comprehensive way, and I do not hesitate to recommend it.

---

### **Juliana Butler says**

I guess this is a self-improvement book. I'm glad the author -- a single 35-year-old male with no kids -- clarified in the introduction that "you don't have to be a great player to be a great coach." Bam! He's qualified to offer advice... you can read on.

The book's mantra -- which, in the end I found to an interesting query in and of itself -- is to always ask yourself whether this or that will help you "to become the best version of yourself." And, of course, you should start to ask your kids from an early age whether their desire to do/have something will help them to become the best version of themselves. Etc. The more I thought about it, I figured, you know, that's probably not a bad question to ask yourself. I asked my 4.5 year old daughter that and she walked away. Oh well, the author says it's making an impression on her psyche somewhere.

I felt disqualified by this book at two points. First, when the "five habits" of "working marriages" were enumerated and realizing I met none of them (3 of the 5 involving weekends, dinners away from the kids). Second, when the strong religious tone was laid down: "When was the last time you sat down in the classroom of silence with the Divine Architect"... "the Divine Navigator" or "your God" and asked to be shown "the plan." Uh....

All in all though, the message is good. Set a good example for your kids by doing good yourself. Eat well, speak well, give back, etc. I also like the counter-culture message -- "we are at war" and "our entire civilization is in crisis." Against TV, video games, fast food, teen sex, the mandate to consume to be happy.

Also provide some interesting stats (no footnotes for references though, so maybe he made it up): more than 50% of American children now live separated from their bio dads. And: by the time the average American child is 6 years old, she will have spent more time watching TV than she will spend talking to her father in her entire life.

As I read the book, couldn't shake the knowledge that the author has "traveled the globe" and presented seminars to more than 3 million people. Wasn't Donald Trump doing something like that to make us all millionaires. If only.

---

### **Laura Roessler says**

It gave me a lot to think about being a better parent. It also made being a parent seem less daunting:)

---

### **Janet says**

Matthew Kelly gives some down-to-earth, real-life advice on effective parenting. He is definitely (and thankfully) in the camp of kids needs limits from their parents; parents should NOT strive to be their kids friends. He investigates some of the current challenges that media, video games, and other technology present and ways to manage them (having family phones that kids can use when needed versus giving your 9 year old his own cell phone). I appreciate the overarching question of "does this help you/your kids/your spouse become the best version of yourself/themselves/him/herself?" It is an interesting question to keep in mind each and every day!

I also appreciated pondering the question of what one word will I want my child to use to describe me as a parent 20 years from now. I think that will help guide me on future parenting decisions, as it will be a way to check and see if my answer matches with my chosen word. Similarly, Mr. Kelly asks you to think about

what one word you will want to use to describe your child 20 years from now. Successful, rich, independent, caring? I think keeping those one-word answers in mind helps narrow some of the many parenting decisions down into more manageable goals.

I definitely recommend his book to other parents, as well as teachers and other child-care providers. Many, many worthwhile words of wisdom are conveniently consolidated into "Building Better Families." John Gottman is another fantastic (and perhaps more importantly, research-based marriage and family therapist) author of multiple parenting and relationship books worth reading.

---