

Raising Our Black Sons: A Mother's Perspective **Episode Guide**

Focus: Shawana Kemp and Priscilla Shorter discuss the challenges and fears of raising a black son. This podcast highlights the impact and role race plays in how mothers should consider when modeling and teaching their sons.

Presenters: Shawana Kemp & Priscilla Shorter

Key Findings

- In response to her black son picking up a chair in class after being bullied: "You're not gonna go to special ed. You're not gonna be labeled. They wanna give you another label. You're already a young black boy." This quote indicates that mothers with black sons have fears and concerns of the consequences and misconceptions should their son receive as a result of "getting in trouble" at school
- Kids of today do not really understand racism or colorism or the way it was 15 years ago due to social media influences
- It is important to have a "tribe or village" with individuals you trust to help balance and support you
- Educators and parents need to create a partnership in order for children to succeed and feel empowered
- Establishing trust is vital and key to establishing any relationship
"I want him to really have experienced joy and I feel like so much. So many of the boys don't get to be joyful, they don't get to smile, they don't get to walk down the street and run with the sun beating down on their face." The effects of racism takes away an individual's innocence and sense of belonging to one's self and among others.
- Giving your son positive messages builds resilience which helps them affirm not only who they are, but let society know that they will not be defined by misconceptions or stereotypes

Key Recommendations

- Mothers with Black boys need to proactively have conversations with their sons about race and how race plays into everyday interactions with others and portrayed in the media so that they do not become angry and experience poor self-esteem
- Engaging your son early and often is important, as social media oftentimes becomes a place where children receive their information and interpret their views of the world and others which may negatively shape perceptions of Black boy
- Surround yourself with individuals who can support you and give your son positive and re-affirming messages
- Build a loving and trusting space to create safe, honest and open dialogues and discussions
- You know your children best. Put them in situations, schools, activities, where they will thrive and succeed in order for them to feel empowered and do well.