

WHY DO WE LOSE OUR CHILDREN?

INTRODUCTION:

A. Personal Remarks:

1. Subject close to my heart.
 - a. Think about the spiritual welfare of my children nearly every single day.
2. Ideas are not original with me. Borrowed from older, wiser men - Irven Lee,...Leslie Deistlecamp, James Cope, Wayne Teel, etc.
3. Problem of "young" man speaking on this subject -
 - a. "Young"? "Don't know from Experience"? "May find out some day that he doesn't know"? **TRUE!!!**
 - b. But, God's precepts are true whether spoken by young or old!
 - c. Cannot afford to wait until I'm 55 or 60 to "learn from experience."
 - (1) I only have one opportunity to raise my children right, so I must do it right **NOW!**
 - (2) Not saying I will...
 - (3) I'm not pretending to be an expert...
 - (4) For my wife and I and our four sons, we must do it right the first time - no second chance!
 - d. If I look back and my children are ungodly, irreverent, unfaithful...nothing I can do!
 - e. Therefore, I **must** find out **before** I have experience, the right ways of the Lord!

B. We do not want to lose our children.

1. The church would grow from the inside if all the members could save their own children.
2. Too often they **take for granted** that their children will be faithful. There must be constant watching and teaching.

a. Some things said today may be true of parents present:

(1) If true, say so, warn young parents.

(2) No intent to embarrass, be unkind, or open old wounds. This lesson is for young parents who yet have time to make amends.

3. Satan is an adversary, and he goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). This includes our children.

4. One generation does not inherit its knowledge from the generation that goes before it. (Example: Strong church weak in second generation and gone in the third.)

a. Example: Children of Israel - Time of Moses, Joshua, afterward.

Judges 2:10-13

- (1) Knew not God.
- (2) Did evil.
- (3) Served Baalim.
- (4) Forsook the Lord.

C. However, many parents must look back and be broken hearted at the loss spiritually of their children - from service to God.

1. Faithful parents - faithless children.

2. Ask: "Why is our child not faithful to the Lord?"
"Why has our child turned from God?"

D. I am assuming that each is concerned about their children and about this subject.

E. Let us consider some reasons why we lose our children. If we learn, we can perhaps avoid.

I. NOW FAITHFUL PARENTS, ONCE WERE NOT.

A. When young - children young - too busy.

1. Material, financial desires -

- a. Father works long hours - many times choose job or change job that limits so one never has time with children.
- b. Mother takes job to help.
- c. Look for "financial security" - often want material things in beginning - house, car, etc. Leave no time to serve God or be with family.

2. Child left to be reared by baby sitter, day care operators, etc.

- a. **NO ONE CAN CARE FOR YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS** (emotional, spiritual, or physical) **SUCH AS YOU CAN!**

(1) **NOT EVEN GRANDMOTHER!** Please do not get angry! Warning: do not sacrifice your children on the altar of materialism.

B. Children taught early have the greater opportunity.

1. May find exceptions to this rule (Hezekiah example). Why rely on exception?

- a. Are you willing to take the chance? Some parents do! **MOST DO!!**

2. Relate brother Lee's story about man mad at church (Good Homes In A Wicked World - Irven Lee p. 117).

3. I wish it were possible to impress on young parents the seriousness of being negligent in their duty to the Lord and in failing to teach their children **while** they can be reached. Too often they feel that there will be time later.

II. PARENTS WHO ARE LUKE WARM

- A. Like the Laodiceans - Revelation 3:14-17.
- B. For every transgression - consequence - luke warm will pay.

C. Parents who may attend when it is convenient - take no real interest in the work of the Church.

1. Miss if company comes.

2. If it is cold, hot, rain, fog, snow, if we get up late, want to go somewhere (an ol' excuse).

D. We have taught our children that religious convictions are not important.

III. PARENTS FAITHFUL IN ATTENDANCE; UNFAITHFUL IN BIBLE TEACHING:

A. Not "bad" people -

1. Insist children attend.

2. Not "ungodly".

3. Do not teach the wrong things.

4. Just do not teach at all.

5. Leave teaching to Bible class teachers, preacher, etc.

B. Do not study themselves.

1. Children never **see** parents study.

C. Do not teach and encourage their children to study (sometimes study ourselves).

1. Do not put God before them.

a. Is yours a home that can go from Sunday to Sunday and God not be mentioned?

b. If we do not stimulate our children's interest in God, that interest will soon be diverted elsewhere.

Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

(1) **Example:** Young child who wants/cries to go to meeting - denied - soon will not go if given the opportunity.

D. Sometimes parents make the grievous mistake of allowing children to decide if they will go to meeting.

1. Perverted idea of allowing children to do as they please. Wash face? Comb hair?

2. Example of coach voting on whether boys would play ball or go to worship.

E. Sometimes, after having taken child to service all their lives, they leave home and church and we ask, "Why?"

1. May have taught them instrumental music is wrong, institutionalism is wrong (not why, just that it is) etc., but never taught them that there is: One Body, One Church, One Way of Salvation. **Cf.**

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

F. Reverence for God must be **taught**.

1. By example
2. By insisting on proper dress
3. By insistence on paying attention during worship.
4. Does not "just happen."
5. Relate brother Lee's example of irreverence.

IV. PARENTS FAITHFUL IN ATTENDANCE BUT UNGODLY IN LIFE.

A. Appear pious to others, but live unclean lives before children.

B. Play the role of hypocrite before them.

1. Vulgar speech.
2. Beer, cigarettes.
3. Lying.
4. Cheating in business (partner or customer) or government.
5. Break the law (child watches father at a stop sign).
6. Adopt the morals, dress, speech of the world.

1 John 2:15-17

C. Morality is not **all** the religion of Christ, but true religion will manifest itself in pure morals. (Note: There is a

difference between the World's standard of morals and God's; He expects a higher standard).

D. Children will soon learn to despise both the hypocritical parent and the religion they profess - you can't fool your child - **perception**.

V. BECAUSE WE ARE NOT CAREFUL ABOUT THEIR ASSOCIATES.

A. Do we allow them to constantly remain in an environment that is detrimental to their faith?

1. Peers at school - playmates, companions.

a. My father picked some of my companions. Parents have the **right** to choose. Example of tobacco chewing, cursing little boy.

b. Children will become as those whom they associate with.

1 Corinthians 15:33 [KJV] Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. [ASV] Be not deceived, evil companionship corrupt good morals."

c. Sometimes parents are deceived!

d. Example: Good apple or potato in container with rotten.

B. Keep your children in the right company.

1. Make your home an attractive gathering place. (Remember the Kool-Aid commercial - **you** set the example before yours and others.

2. Encourage your children to bring their friends home. Keep it neat, clean, inviting. Don't be afraid of others "making a mess" (Aunt Jean).

3. Watch **your** associations. Keep the bad out (even family).

C. Use your right as parents to prohibit your child from going places that are not good for him/her.

1. Refute idea of child having right to choose.

- a. Must allow child to try to make decisions - hard for parent!
- b.
- c. Example: Farmer plants good seed, in good soil, uses good fertilizer, then allows weeds to ruin the crop. Shame on him!

VI. NOT CAREFUL ABOUT EDUCATION - WHO AND WHAT:

- A. School system can destroy your child's faith.
 - 1. Once the Bible could be used as a textbook - not anymore!
 - a. Many remember exactly what they were doing when they heard of John Kennedy's death. I remember the death of Bible reading in the schools (4th grade - Teacher had tears in her eyes).
 - 2. Can teach:
 - a. Evolution (= atheism). [Note the use of "doublespeak" i.e. "previously enjoyed" = "used"; "family planning" or "planned parenthood" = "abortion."
 - b. Low Morality (= trial marriages, living together, their own brand of "sex education" which rarely teaches moral values, if ever).
 - c. Alternate life style (= homosexuality).
 - d. Situation ethics (= no morality).
 - e. Pro-Choice (= abortion).
 - 3. Note: Must be limit to religious teaching in public schools, but it is downright shameful to BAN GOD FROM THE CLASSROOM!
 - 4. The nation that does is sick!
 - 5. Chart some of the things taught in schools.

VII. EXTERNAL INFLUENCES:

A. Christ said, "Take heed what ye hear" (Mark 4:24).

1. Take heed what our children hear, see, read.

B. Music - great influence on young - have seen results.

1. Parents, pay attention to your children's music..to your own music.

C. What they see - Television, movies, violence, immodesty, vulgarity, fornication, evolution, liquor drinking, gambling, etc. (Would you allow people to actually perform these things in your home?)

D. Reading - All kinds of filth available - from religious error to materialism to pornography. Schools have a little of everything in their library.

1. Don't overlook the benefits that each realm can provide.

E. Strictness, not leniency, must be the rule.

VIII. BECAUSE WE HAVE REMOVED THEM FROM OUR FAMILY CIRCLE:

A. Affluence is a major cause. Out of sight often means out of control and out of godliness.

B. Dealt with in earlier lesson.

CONCLUSION:

Additional thoughts:

Remember, no such thing as the "imputed righteousness" of the parents.

Don't constantly display church problems or continually criticize the elders, preacher, or other brethren.

Can't rear our children right just by example - Eli - didn't restrain (1 Samuel 3:13); Abraham - commanded his children (Genesis 18:19)

Children, just because your parents are good, does not mean you are saved.

Here are some pitfalls, let us try to avoid them. Children are our gift from God. Let us guide them wisely.

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