

Molding Children

by Bill Crews

We find it difficult to believe that all of the adults on earth, no matter how corrupted and perverted they may have become, no matter how deep into sin they may have ventured, no matter how far removed from what God would have them to be they have gone, no matter how evil and cruel and disgusting they may have made themselves, **were once tiny, helpless, innocent and pure infants!** After all, they did not live alike, and they will not die alike.

No two people are alike in all things. Each person is unique. If you had twelve children, each would be different. The way we turn out as adults is due, in part, to *inheritance*, but is due to a much greater degree to the *molds* into which we were cast and especially to *personal desires* entertained and *personal decisions* made. Each accountable individual chooses the **kind** of person he becomes.

The importance of **environment**, especially home or family environment, cannot be over-emphasized. Ideally, every child on earth is entitled to parents who are faithful Christians – his parents are not what they should be if they are not faithful Christians. From birth every child is entitled to a home environment where God's word is taught and exemplified.

Think of all the children whose parents are in pagan religions or in false religions in Christendom. That is the mold into which they are cast. Think of all the children that are brought up in *broken homes* – without the benefit of both a father and a mother. Think of all the children, born all right, but never wanted, never truly loved, cared for, provided for. Think of all the children whose only father is their mother's live-in boyfriend or series of live-in boyfriends. Think of all the children born out of wedlock who never have a good home. Think of all the children who from birth spend more time with others to whom they are entrusted or committed than they ever spend with their own mothers. Think of those who are so abused and mistreated that they will grow up to be abusive and cruel; of those who are constantly exposed to vulgar and filthy language, quarreling and fighting, drinking and drunkenness, lying and deception; of those whose only baby sitter is a television set; of those who are never cuddled, but sometimes lustfully fondled; of those who are ever hearing things, or seeing things, or being subjected to things that will make it nearly impossible for them to grow up to be healthy or normal. These are the molds into which they are being cast. (I realize that there some remarkable exceptions – boys and girls who in spite of such influences grow up to be wonderful adults. And I realize that anyone who **wills** can change, and that there are always those good people who are working to help children in trouble.)

And what about our own children? Do they know what it is to have parents who are faithful Christians? Do they hear us pray? Are they taught to pray? Do they see us reading the Bible, and do we teach them to reverence it as the word of God? Many a young person, with a head full of Bible facts, has gone astray, but not one who possessed a deep respect for the Bible as the word of God. Do they learn from us that God's will should be done in all things, and that Christ should come before all others? Do they learn from us that schools and college are not as important as learning God's word? That any earthly family is not as important as the family of God? That being a success in the business world is not as important as being a success as a Christian? That money and possessions are not the true measure of a man, but that being right with and acceptable to God are? That sin is the most dreadful thing that can come into a heart and life? By the way we talk and act, by the way we treat others, by the way we assemble for Bible classes and worship assemblies, by the importance we attach to worshiping and to learning God's word, by the way we give on the Lord's day, by the concern we have and show for lost souls, we either **are or are not** setting the right examples for them. We will help, to a large extent, to make them what they become. Is being a Christian and going to heaven what we really want most of all for them?

What is the mold into which your children are being cast?

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