

Raising “G” Rated Kids in a “R” Rated World

Proverbs 1:10-19

Introduction

- A. The Proverb writer warned young men to avoid walking in paths which lead to harm.
- B. Today, we are disturbed at the direction many of our youth have chosen.
- C. In one sense, times seem to be worse than ever before, but Solomon said, “There is nothing new under the Sun” - **Ecclesiastes 1:10**
- D. “Today’s youth love luxury and have bad manners. They hold authority in contempt; they no longer stand up when an adult enters the room; they talk back to parents and contradict them; they talk too much in the presence of company; they talk nonsense instead of working; they put themselves all over the furniture; and they guzzle their food” (Socrates, 500 B.C., Athens, Greece).
- E. Our goal this morning is to examine some areas that have direct influence on our kids and to offer some practical suggestions on how to deal with these influences

I. We Are Sacrificing Our Children

- A. The pages of history are bloody with the record of heathen nations sacrificing their children

- 1. This is one of the reasons God destroyed the Canaanites - **Psalms 106:37-38**

"They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons, and shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; and the land was polluted with blood"

- 2. The wicked king Manasseh followed the example of the Canaanites and "caused his sons to pass through the fire in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom" - **2 Chronicles 33:6**

- B. Notice three altars upon which we sacrifice our children

- 1. The altar of pleasure

- a. Some parents are so concerned about their children having "a good time" that they will sacrifice the soul of their own child on the altar of pleasure
 - b. Notice the words of Solomon in **Ecclesiastes 11:9**
 - c. Enjoy life, but don't forget about the judgment!
 - d. When parents are willing to sacrifice the souls of their children in the pursuit of entertainment, are they any better off than the heathen who "sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons"?

- 2. The altar of popularity

- a. Some Christians have been known to sacrifice their children in an attempt to make them "popular."
 - b. Since the moral code revealed in the New Testament is not in harmony with the "standards" of the world, many will yield to pressure and allow their children to engage in activities they would rather you not know about.

- 3. The altar of education

- a. No, I am not opposed to secular education
 - b. A good education is required for children to function in this world
 - c. However, I am also concerned about the world to come.

- d. My heart breaks every time I hear some parent tell me their child could not make it to Wednesday evening Bible class because "they had homework."
- e. The homework has to be done, but why at the expense of Bible study?
- f. Why don't they just skip a few hours of television or talking on the phone instead?
- g. What excuse can a parent possibly have for their children not having their Bible class lessons prepared?
- h. Out of 168 hours in a week they couldn't find one hour to study their Bible?
 - 1) Did they have time for television?
 - 2) Did they find time to talk with their friends on the phone?
 - 3) Did they have time to play outside?
 - 4) I don't blame the children near as much as I do the parents!

II. Do Not Sin Against The Child

- A. When the brothers of Joseph journeyed to Egypt in search of grain, they never dreamed they would see their long lost brother whom they had sold into slavery many years before
- B. Their younger brother was now second in command in Egypt and adorned in Pharaoh's royal raiment and gold chains.
- C. While unknown to his brothers, he accused them of being spies and threw them into prison - **Genesis 42**
- D. As these boys "simmered" in jail, they remembered the cruelty they had shown Joseph when he pleaded for his life
- E. Reuben reminded them how he had warned them to "not sin against the child," but they had refused to listen - **Genesis 42:22**
- F. Parents today often sin against their own children

- 1. The effect of their sin is not always immediate
- 2. Sometimes it takes years to see the consequences of sin

G. How we can sin against the child

1. Lack of corrective discipline

- a. When parents withhold corrective discipline, they sin against their children
- b. Solomon said "He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly" - **Proverbs 13:24**
 - 1) This is a very strong statement, but we have God's assurance it is true
 - 2) Parents who do not discipline their children hate them!
 - 3) Many parents think letting a child "do his own thing" is healthy
 - 4) God says the parents are guilty of child neglect.
- c. Solomon also admonished parents to "chasten your son while there is hope, and do not let set your heart on his destruction" - **Proverbs 19:18**
- d. He gave parents hope when he said, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" - **Proverbs 22:6**
- e. Timothy is a great example of one who was properly trained as a child, and did not depart from God's way - **2 Timothy 1:5**

2. Lack of Parental Examples

- a. Parents can also sin against their children by setting a poor example before them
- b. Parents who are lax in their attendance not only harm themselves, but their children as well
- c. Children need to see their parents put the Lord first

- d. Children must see that their parents love not only them, but also each other.
- e. Someone has said, "The best way to be a good father to your children is to be a good husband to their mother."
- f. Children need to know their parents are madly in love with each other
- g. It is possible the only virtuous marriage your children will observe is in your home.
- h. They will never learn how to have a happy marriage from watching TV or reading their high school class books!

3. Lack of Proper Instruction

- a. Another way we can sin against our children is by failing to teach them the will of God.
- b. The ultimate responsibility for this teaching rests with the father - Ephesians 6:4
- c. Many parents today have abdicated their responsibility
- d. Parents in the days of Moses were commanded to teach God's word diligently to their children and "talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up" - Deuteronomy 6:7

III. 10 Tips for raising "G" rated Kids in an "R" rated society

These are the other sheet

Conclusion

- A. Parents, let's strive to raise godly children.
- B. The future of the Lord's church and the future of this nation depend on it.
- C. The responsibility is ours, not elders, preachers or the public school system.
- D. Never give up hope and continue to pray that God through His word will teach us how to bring up our children "in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).
- E. Adult Delinquent Poem – Separate Sheet