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PROCLAIMING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

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What Are We Doing to Our Children?

BY THE EDITOR

IT was back in my first pastorate in Wheeling, West Virginia, in the year 1949. I was 22 years old. A grandmother in my church phoned me about a problem in her son's home. His wife left the family and was living with another man in the same town. There was no one to care for the children. I was asked to talk to her. The grandmother assured me where she was living and that she was there alone at this time. Of course I knew better than to put my sweet wife through this situation. Upon arrival, I found an arrogant lady just a few years older than myself. Timidity, as you already know, was never one of my shortcomings. Naturally, the Bible held no authority in her life, and her conscience about her action bothered her not at all. Here was her reasoning: She fell out of love with her husband, so she was entitled to live with another man, who loved her and, thus, she could return that love. It had to be lust, for love does not destroy a marriage and the abandonment of three children.

This woman repeated the following statement three times: "I don't want anybody saying that I do not love my children." She did not need to repeat that statement for I was privileged to be the first to say exactly that and was just waiting for her to take a breath. I need not elaborate as to her response. It meant absolutely nothing what God, her husband, grandmother, children and this visiting preacher had to say about her action. She broke her marriage vows, made before God, her husband, and those in attendance at her marriage. God's reaction and assured judgment did not put fear into her heart. I told her all that God wanted her to hear, then headed home to tell my dear wife what I had just witnessed.

Little did I realize at the time that this story would be repeated over and over during my 60 years of preaching the Word. We have come to the sad day when over half of children born will not live with their father or mother in their home. Nearly 40 percent of all babies in America in the year of 2006 were born outside of marriage. (Can you possibly believe these figures?) The fastest growing ages of unwed mothers were 25 to 29. These figures grew by 10 percent within one year. Most of these children live without a father to love them and be their tower of strength. Professor Stephanie Coontz of The Evergreen State College in Olympia states, "People feel more free to pick and choose their life trajectories and feel less compelled to marry." She says about half of all unwed mothers are living with their boyfriends. Many girls are waiting for the "right" man independent of marriage. They are more afraid of marrying the "wrong" man and experiencing a divorce than being an unwed mom.

Without Natural Affection

We fail often times to name specific sins as God did in His Word. Hear God's situation of our day in Romans 1:10-12: "Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud,

boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, WITHOUT NATURAL AFFECTION, implacable, unmerciful; who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

We have murdered millions of babies in the wombs of their mothers. God decides the production of children. They are the direct result of God's action: "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is His reward." In the Old Testament, we learned He opens or closes the womb. How dare we murder His children? God asked Cain at the time he slew his brother, "Where is Abel your brother? . . . What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries to me from the ground" (Genesis 4:9,10). Can you hear the cries for revenge from the millions of slain babies? The judgment of God is sure to fall upon a nation that allows and promotes such action. Murder and hatred is not to be separated in the Bible. Millions of children are hated by their parents, as well as the medical participants involved in abortions. None of these will escape God's judgment unless they repent and ask God's forgiveness for such action.

This treatment of children continues in our once great nation. God's commandments and instructions mean little in our day. Do you know one of the first commandments in the Bible? "And God blessed them (Adam and Eve) and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth and subdue it. . . ." (Genesis 1:28). "I will therefore

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that the younger women marry, BEAR CHILDREN, guide the house (not a business), give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully” (I Timothy 5:14). We are commanded to have children and bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Parents are to be an example of such before their children. My dear young lady, it is God’s will for you to get married and bear children. This is a vital part of your being helpful to your husband. (Here is another commandment.) A married couple, madly in love with each other, will joyfully love their children, for they are a part of their lover.

Our Most Thrilling Days

1. When we get saved and are on the way to heaven, taking many with us who come in contact with God through our presentation of the gospel by spoken word and personal testimony.
2. When we find the right boy or girl and get married, which today is still God’s announced plan.
3. When God, in His providence, graces your home with children. Have you noticed how many names God mentions in the Bible and often with their father or mother? Individuals are very important in God’s sight. Stop to think with me that over half of the children born this month will be deserted by their father. Most of them will not be supported financially by their father. What shameful and unscriptural treatment of our children!

I am sorry for so many young people who have no concept of a happy home. They never see real love manifested between their father and mother. They hear bickering, backbiting, and little respect for the members of their family. What kind of a home do you think these children will produce? I know what I am talking about. At the age of eleven, I lost my mother by death. We lived in a troubled home from that day forward. How well I know the lifetime of scars upon us three children. In divorce, children not only lose their father, but must stay with a bitter mother.

A Big Mistake

As parents, we have depended upon a pagan school system to educate our children. The school and church care for their spiritual training. We spend thousands of dollars putting our children in a private Christian school, then expect stronger maturity. What a sad mistake are these patterns of false conclusions. Most children will rise no higher than the home in which they live. Where did we get the idea that somebody outside the home will do the job for the parents. “Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). “That you might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son, and your son’s son, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged” (Deuteronomy 6:2). Hear God’s instruction to Abraham concerning parental responsibility: “And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in your heart. And you shall TEACH THEM DILIGENTLY TO THEIR CHILDREN and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way and when you lay down and when you rise up. . . .” (Deuteronomy 6:6-8). (Read this entire passage.)

Marriage Mistakes

The biggest is not to be prepared for it. Lifetime’s greatest change is your conversion to Christ. The second greatest is getting married. God plainly declares in His Word that it is a lifetime contract broken only by death. How many people do you know who believe and practice that direction? Better have that settled prior to marriage. For a real study of your situation, you should read my free series of printed messages on “LOVE AND MARRIAGE.” (I do not ask for money for them.) Your most important job as a mother is to prepare your daughters and sons, and your coming

grandchildren, for a wonderful marriage. Father, you must join with your wife in their preparation for marriage. Now for sad news: If you are not a demonstration of a couple madly in love with each other and in your God-given position, your children will not listen to either of you. Today’s youth are failing in their homes because that is all they knew in the home they left. Parents, you have the most important task on this earth. Why not confess your failure to God and trust Him to turn things around? Will you be the first He can use in your family? Most divorces fail to consider what it does to their children. It must be the right direction because so many are taking that route. Does it matter to you what God says about your action? We are doing a poor job in preparing our children for a full rewarding life, bringing glory to God for His work. I hope you are an exception to these honest accusations.

A Very Important Matter

Is your Bible an important book in your home NOW? Do your children see you reading and honoring it? Are you under its authority? Are you teaching from the Bible God’s many answers to individual personal problems found there? (Don’t miss my next audio chat, “MARRIAGE / TEENAGERS.” It will eventually be heard on our web site. Your own CD or cassette is free upon request. (I will go into sex.) Do you as a family read God’s love letter together? Is it in a more prominent place than the TV Guide? Are your children informed of God’s declared courses of action in the midst of such moral depravity that surrounds them? Are you attending a church that gives enough of a Bible discourse that can later be discussed at home? Do your children know biblical faith, the wrath of God, His grace, and the real meaning of His cross? What do your children know of spiritual things? Ask them and then you will know. Their spiritual training should not be left to others. These are the children God intends for you to train in all things. Their value of spiritual Truth seldom rises above that of their parents.

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Personal Word



A big THANK YOU to all who, by your prayers and purse, give me the opportunity to produce this publication. I stand constantly amazed at our response. Many assure me of their appreciation for our biblical messages, prayers, and the distribution of our literature to others. Every gift goes 100 percent to this ministry.

Please Remember

Our literature includes about 90 printed messages, plus this monthly publication. Cassettes and CDs are mailed regularly. Everything we produce is placed in the hands of the receivers free of charge,

including all nine lessons of our Bible Study Course. Every part of our ministry is made available through our web site, plus our audio chats. In these days, we are in desperate need of uncompromising Truth direct from the Bible.

Volunteer Assistance

Many hours of personal labor are involved in communicating biblical Truth through the various means God has made available to us. Do pray for our workers:

Dr. Michael and Linda Eccleston (Titusville)
Bob and Marge Williams (Titusville)
Dr. George and Mae Mitchell (Melbourne)
Gene and Joyce Schledorn (Indian Harbor Beach)
Wayne and Sandy Page (Sebastian)
John Porter (Sebastian)

You will notice that Don and Ginny Pierson are no longer working with us. They had assumed responsibility for mailing our free literature, plus additional tasks. We thank God for their faithful and loyal service unto the Lord down through the past years.

Our Operation

By this time, many have observed that when receiving our literature or hearing our audio messages, there is no financial appeal. This is true of inmates, bulk mailings to the chaplains, as well as anyone in touch with us. It is easy to conclude that because we do not ask for funds, we have no financial needs. One could easily conclude that we are underwritten by a denomination, endowed by a foundation, or funded by large donors. **None of these conclusions are true.** Our distribution of God's Word is made possible by *individuals*. These gifts enable us to go into the prisons of our nation, reaching many thousands of men and women who never have heard of God's love through His Son. Forgiveness and cleansing can be their portion. We pay no salaries; people volunteer their time and energy to assist us. In these words, we are letting you know how God meets our financial needs. We welcome your laboring with us and thank Him for you who do.

Times Are Changing

I had just arrived at my first pastorate in Wheeling, West Virginia. The liberal ministerial leaders got together for a city-wide meeting. I followed it closely. Naturally, the name could not be offensive to anyone, so they planned a "Preaching Mission" and brought the most widely known liberals in the land. Among them was Norman Vincent Peale. I attended the report meeting. Guess what they had left on hand? Decision cards! How inoffensive that word — "decision." Remember the day when we talked about the number of *converts*? During these times the missionaries

reported how many heathen *repented* of their sins. Never will you hear these terms among the liberals. *Saved*? Then we must be lost. *Repent*? Only sinners can do that. *Converted*? We must be completely turned around. *Born-again*? Then we must be spiritually dead.

If we are to be saved by the grace of God, man can do nothing in order to be acceptable in the sight of a holy and righteous God. He has stated that we are a product of His work — "We are His workmanship." In the preceding verses God plainly states "that not of yourself... Not of works" (Ephesians 2:8-10). Multitudes have accepted this new change in terminology. Today, we make a "decision." We must open the door for Christ to come in. We must come forward and make our confession before the congregation or follow the thousands of Christian workers when the invitation is given in the great crusades. By the way, the next Sunday after the Preaching Mission, Billy Graham came to our town by radio and called his program "The Hour of Decision." Not only did Billy Graham classify all the liberals and modernists as Christians, but he also promoted them in his meetings. Of course, numbers mean success, so the entire evangelical crowd followed his unscriptural terminology. (I do know a few exceptions, however.) At his request, I had a conference with him for 45 minutes. We talked about these issues.

Since the introduction of decisional regeneration, we have continued to stray from sound doctrine. Jesus Christ said, "Except a man be born-again (from above), he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). No one will enter heaven on any other basis. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, God reveals our sins and we see ourselves as we are in His presence. Upon turning away from sin toward divine intervention, He reveals the work of His Son on the cross. Read all about our need of cleansing from sin. It is clear in the first few chapters of John and Romans. Read it for yourself. Don't take the word of the Pope, Protestant minister, Sunday school teacher, or any other human being. God speaks direct to you through His Word. **READ IT! READ IT! READ IT!**

What Are We Doing . . .? (continued from page 2)

War on Marriage

It is coming from the homosexual crowd and is reaching fruition through the court system, the same way abortion became the law of the land. They know with a popular vote by the people none of this nonsense would become an issue. Across our entire nation, legislation is under way to do away with marriage between a man and a woman only. I am convinced there is money behind the push that causes courts and legislative bodies to surrender to such absurdity. And they are gaining ground. Silence on the part of the opposition will produce shock and dismay for all of us. Same-sex marriage is on the rise in our country. Again, it is children who will suffer, for this crowd is adopting them. Did you expect to be alive at this hour of degradation?

The Authority of God

By the action of American people, it is evident that it is gone from the majority. "This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all nations. For the Lord of hosts has purposed and who shall disannul it? and His hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back? . . . My command shall stand, and I will do my pleasure. . . . I have spoken it; I will bring it to pass; I have purposed it; I will also do it." (Isaiah 14:26,27; 46:10,11). God in His sovereignty has spoken. We can obey and receive His promised blessing. We can disobey and automatically receive His promised judgment. Did God keep His promise of judgment in the Garden of Eden? He still does down to this day. This hour you are under His blessing or damnation. Your future is in either heaven or hell. Here is the reason for the cross of Christ. There He took our deserved punishment for our personal sin, rose from the dead to give us everlasting life, and will place it within us. He commands repentance on our part. He gives the ability to repent, turning from your sin to the Savior. He will give you the faith He demands. His grace has provided all our needs to be acceptable in His sight through His Son. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

Have you received His gift? Is He going to keep His promise in your behalf? Which will it be, blessing or judgment? "For God so loved the world (you and me), that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever (place your name here) believes in Him should not perish (hell), but have everlasting life (heaven)" (John 3:16). When you rest in Jesus Christ, let me know about it. I want to rejoice with the heavenly host upon your repentance. (Luke 15:7)

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OUR OPERATION

We have discontinued our radio ministry, but we continue full speed in our other outlets. You can hear our messages by cassette or CDs; let us know of your interest. Five couples volunteer their time and energy in this ministry. We pay no salaries, which means your gifts go 100 percent to reach thousands weekly by literature, cassettes, Bible studies, and on our website. We welcome your participation.

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"Be you steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord . . . You know your labor is not in vain in the Lord" I Corinthians 15:58

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