

Sermon Notes  
Ecclesiastes Ch. 3



Kids! God's  
Next  
Generation!

River Road  
Baptist Church  
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# Reflections

Moses charged Israel, in Deuteronomy 6, ...*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. Deut. 6:5-7*

According to several surveys, about 80%, or more, of our children leave the church upon leaving home, many of whom never return. These statistics, and others like them, seem to indicate that we are not teaching our children that God's Word is true and that the consequences of sinful life choices are eternal death and loss. Even while we commonly refer to our children as the future of our church and even of our nation it seems that we are failing in our mission to let them know the reality of the Gospel and of life in Christ and the dire consequences for rejecting Him.

When we, as a nation, allow our children to be taught that they are accidents of nature, just animals like the others, that there is no God, that immoral life styles are normal and when we fill their hearts with other perverted philosophies, why should we be surprised when they behave as immoral beings? We see being played out in our nation's embracing of earthly and unbiblical teachings the reality that is taught in Romans 6:23. *For the wages of sin is death...* The wonderful alternative to this culture of death is found in the second part of that verse which tells us... *but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* The challenge then is for the Church to become more impassioned regarding our children and the teaching and training that we give them in order to have their lives anchored in Christ Jesus rather than on the shifting sands of the modern world's view of life.

Truly our children are the next generation and they will be the legacy that we leave the world and the Church of Jesus. The question that remains is: What will that legacy be? Will we leave the Church in a deceived and apostate condition or will we leave behind a generation that knows the truth, embraces the Gospel of Jesus and becomes the Church triumphant?

As the world moves rapidly toward a fulfillment of Biblical prophecy and its appointment with the judgement of God's wrath, it is most important that our children are ready to stand in the evil day, protected by the "armor of God." (Ephesians 6:10) Since we all must one day face our Lord and Master to answer for what we've done with Jesus, let's be found in Him that we might hear Him say: "Well done good and faithful servant. **Pastor Doug**

Then little children were brought to Him that He might put [His] hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. *But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."*

**Matthew 19:13-14** Jesus welcomed the children that the disciples were not willing to bring to Him and as He received them, He laid His hands on them which is a form of blessing much like the patriarchs were known to do as they blessed their children with their inheritance and with insights into their futures. He pointed out that children were indicative of those who were part of His kingdom. We are to come to Him with a child-like faith and in obedience to His call on our lives. He clearly loved the children that were around Him.

Now we all know that children are sweet, cute, and mostly wonderful, but that they can also be difficult, disobedient, noisy and challenging at times. In fact, people often get sitters to watch them while they engage in adult pursuits where their children would not be welcome. After all, doesn't everyone just need to get away sometimes?

Sadly, in our modern era, we frequently see children being neglected, abused, ignored and, too often, left to raise themselves without proper adult involvement or none at all. It is more likely than ever that children will spend most of their time with people other than their parents. In our schools they are being influenced by a system of education that seeks to indoctrinate them in humanistic thinking that denies all that is spiritual or religious and that teaches them that what the Bible calls evil is actually normal and good.

Our society has convinced many that God is not real, that creation was a fluke of nature, and that Jesus was just a good teacher, not the Son of God. Society teaches them that same-sex marriage, abortion on demand, assisted suicide, and even children exploited in pornography, are acceptable and even legitimate life choices. As a nation, we seem to have lost all caring about our children.

In contrast to society's agenda, the Bible charges parents to... *bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. - Ephesians 6:4b*