

Competing with Culture

King Solomon knew he was in for a fight. He knew it would be a challenge to keep his children from giving in to the pagan culture that surrounded them. He would plead with his son to listen (knowing it was a very real possibility he wouldn't):

"Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck. My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent...my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths..." (Prov. 1:8-10,15).

Solomon lamented that rebellion against godly parenting led to heartache and grief:

"A foolish son is a grief to his father and bitterness to her who bore him" (Prov. 17:25).

"The one who keeps the law is a son with understanding, but a companion of gluttons shames his father" (Prov. 28:7).

Apparently, it has always been difficult to get the next generation to see the urgency and value of godliness. The peer pressure to go along with the waves of current culture is powerful. We are made to feel ignorant and unloving if we hold to the ways of God rather than to the worldly philosophies of the moment.

With this in mind, we must believe and emphasize the following ideas to the next generation (from the book *Faithfully Different*):

The "nicest sounding" beliefs are not necessarily the right beliefs. Saying "love is all that matters" sounds nice, but it isn't true (cf. 1 Cor. 13:6; John 15:18-19).

The truth is narrow—and that's ok! $2+2=4$ and Jesus is the only way to Heaven (John 8:24, 14:6; Matt. 7:13-14, 21-23)!

Godly humility does not require indecision about our beliefs. We can't know everything, but we are not so naïve as to think we can't know some things (John 8:32).

Experience does not supersede the Bible as a source of knowledge. We must test our experiences against Scripture, not change our beliefs to fit our experiences.

The cure for cultural disagreement will never be to compromise biblical beliefs (1 Cor. 16:13; Eph. 6:13; 2 Thess. 2:15).

- Bart Warren, South Green Street church of Christ, Glasgow, KY (*Bulletin Digest*) -

As you travel through life, use God's map...the Bible.

News & Notes

NEW ADDRESS: David McCoy, 209 Gum Hollow Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday, 9:00-11:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to come and help make stuffed bears for kids in the hospital or elsewhere.

CONVERT'S CLASS: Each Thursday at 11:00 a.m. Everyone welcome.

AREA-WIDE SING: Next Friday, August 2nd, 7:00 p.m. at Weirton Hts. Church of Christ. Refreshments following the sing. All are invited.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, August 3rd, 8:00 a.m. at Coplin's in Newell.

LADIES DAY: Next Saturday, August 3rd, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Columbiana Church of Christ. Theme: "Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus!", Speaker: Cherie Covan. **RSVP:** Tomorrow, July 29th. Additional details on the bulletin board.

COVERED DISH DINNER: Next Sunday, August 4th, about noon at the Fellowship Building followed by our early afternoon worship at 2:00 p.m. at the church building.

PANTRY: Cheese soup.

REMEMBER THESE SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home: Sue Haught, Lois Hissom, Harry Huff, Zachary Guiddy (Tim Martin's grandson), Dean Spencer, Peggy Linger, Claudette Miller, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Lori Stocks (Karen Strum's niece). **Fox - Chester:** Audrey Geer (Linda Hall's mother), Janice Hutchins, Mary Johnson. **Elsewhere: Brenda Harris**, 102 Cardinal Dr., Rockwell, NC 28138. **Herman McHan**, 7401 Elmwood Dr., Lisbon, OH 44432.

Ready for Worship!

At worship, I am given the opportunity to...

...**revere my Maker.** "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those around Him." (Psalm 89:7)

...**rejoice in my salvation.** "And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD; It shall rejoice in His salvation." (Psalm 35:9)

...**refresh my spirit.** "Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, so that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth." (Psalm 119:88)

I can't wait to come and worship, praise and pay homage to the One who created me, delivered me, and awakens me. How about you?

"Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations" (Psalm 100).

- Edd Sterchi (*Bulletin Digest*) -