

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM

Speaker, Robert Emerson

Study Sunday 10:00 AM

Worship Sunday 11:00 AM

Worship Sunday 5:00 PM

Singing every 2nd Sunday evening

Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

Preacher / bulletin editor: Kris Vilander**Phone:** (256) 472-1065; (256) 472-1042**E-mail:** kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org**Website:** www.haysmillchurchofchrist.orgCome study
with us!**Servants during May:****Songleader:** Larry (6), David (13),
Chandler (20), Dwight (27)**Reading:** Robert**Announcements:** Marty**Communion:** Mike, Buddy, Lakin, David**Wednesday Lesson:** Stanley (2), Mike (9),
gospel meeting (16), Kris (23), Larry
(30)**Lawn Mowing (week beginning):**Robert (6), Larry (13), Kris (20),
Billy (27), Marty (3 June)**Singing:** Kris and Cindy's (May 27)**Area Meetings:** Oakland (June 4-8);
Pepper Road (June 3-8)**Hays Mill church of Christ**

21705 Hays Mill Road

Elkmont, AL 35620

**The Bible .
Examiner***"Examine everything carefully..." - 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB*

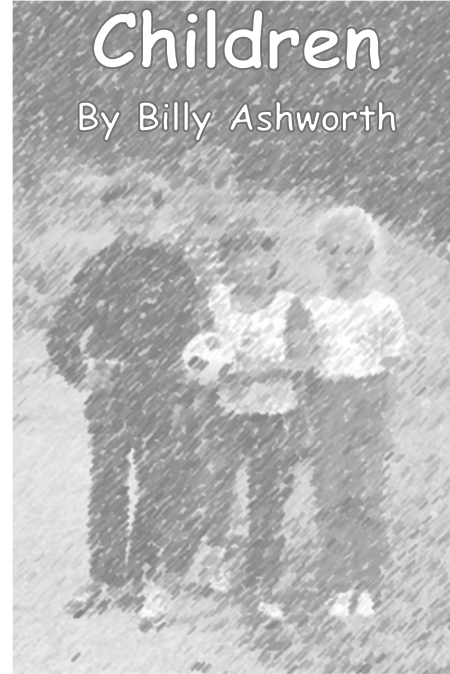
Volume 1

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Children

By Billy Ashworth



The parent-child relationship is as old as the human race. The proper relationship maintained is vital to the happiness, success and eternal destiny of all combined. It has been said that a "good home is the vestibule of heaven."

The formation and proper direction of a family relationship is basic to God's plan for his grandest creation, man. The bringing of children into this world completes the family and perpetuates the human race as God ordained. (Genesis 1:27,28)

It is in this relationship that man

finds his greatest joy and blessings. "Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate." (Psalm 127:3-5)

But with these blessings, as all blessings, there are corresponding responsibilities. A child born into this world is perhaps the most helpless and wholly dependent upon its parents as compared to all other creatures.

God very clearly revealed to man his responsibilities in the realm of caring for and raising children in this old world so corrupted by sin. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) "... fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4)

"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." (1 Timothy 5:8) Of course, many other passages could be cited, but these are sufficient to show the awesome responsibilities involved in having and raising children.

Today there are many good, faithful Christians who have apparently tried to

raise up their children as God has ordained, but have had their hearts broken because their children have either departed the faith or have never obeyed the gospel. Many have asked sincerely, “Why have we lost our precious children? We have tried to raise them in the way they should go, but we have failed somehow; did not God say that if we trained up children in the way they should go, they *“will not depart from it?”*”

This is not an isolated situation. I have talked with many beloved brothers and sisters in Christ who are in such situations. There are so many factors that enter into this most important matter.

First, I think that we should understand that Proverbs 22:6 is a general statement—it states the norm in this case. I do not believe it admits of no exceptions. In the days of the Old Testament, in the First Book of Samuel, we read of two godly men, both of whom had evil sons. Eli’s sons were evil, moral reprobates. Even though he tried to reason with them about their evil ways, “...they hearkened not unto the voice of their father...[The Lord said,] I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.” (1 Samuel 2:25; 3:13) Apparently, Eli was a good man, but a weak father, or disciplinarian, not “frowning on” the evil sons.

However, Samuel’s sons, Joel and Abiah, served as “judges” in Beersheba. They were not good men, walking in the steps of their godly father, “...but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.” (1 Samuel 8:3) The rebellious Israelites used these evil sons as an excuse to rebel against God

and Samuel and demand a king, “that we might be like all the nations.”

In spite of all this evil on the part of Samuel’s sons, God did not hold him responsible to the extent he did Eli. Why? Since God is no respecter of persons, there has to be a difference here between the two fathers.

When we consider all that God has revealed to us, we must reach a conclusion. It seems to me that Eli failed because he was not a strong disciplinarian—although he did try to reason with his evil sons, he “restrained them not.”

Samuel must have done all that he could in the matter of discipline, even though he failed to keep his sons from evil. With these examples before us, let us consider why people lose their children today in such alarming numbers.

1. Parents sometimes fail to *train up a child* in the way he should go. Being young, and often immature, and not too zealous in their service to God while their children are growing up, they awake after it is too late to save their children. When they should have had daily Bible study and prayers with their children, they were just too busy making a living or engaging in recreation and/or social functions, PTA and other such things to devote just a little time to the rearing of their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Regular attendance at all services of the church is neglected during the years when their children are learning from them and their examples. It is no wonder that children “raised” by such parents see no need for the Lord and his church!

2. Parents sometimes are *weak when discipline is involved*. They have been deceived by the modern heresy that one should not ever cross a child on

anything he wants to do—just let him get it out of his system. Don’t ever restrain him, or blister his backside—that would warp his personality! Foolishness! The wise man said: “Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.” (Proverbs 23:13,14) (No child abuse here.) Of course, Dr. Spock and his kind scoff at such instructions. They probably don’t believe that the child has a soul and that there is a hell! Some parents have read the wrong books.

3. Parents some times compromise and let the child do as he pleases including the selection of his *companions* and *running with the world*. Paul wrote: “Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals.” (1 Corinthians 15:33, ASV) I firmly believe that the evil companions that some of God’s people run with are one of the most destructive of all things involving raising a child in the way he should go.

4. Parents often let their “*love of the world*” show through, and consequently the child will learn to love the world also. When parents attend wild parties, drink socially, engage in risqué activities (including the wearing of indecent clothing), flirting, etc., they are foolish to think their children won’t do the same things, if not worse.

5. Parents sometimes lose their children because of the “*wisdom of this world*.” A foolish and despicable idea was parroted around beginning in the lawless Sixties that “children are smarter than their parents.” I hold such godless aberrations with cold contempt. These young people are NOT smarter than their parents. To convince them of such nonsense will make rebels of them against their parents.

The “*intelligentsia*,” pseudo-intellectuals, have been far too successful in destroying the proper respect that children should show their parents. It directly attacks divine revelation: “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother (which is the first commandment with promise)...” (Ephesians 6:1,2, ASV)

The secular education system is particularly responsible for causing parents to lose their children. They are taught that they evolved from apes, are not responsible morally for their actions, to be “independent” and reach out for their own conclusions and philosophy, to disregard the Bible and parents as to what is right or wrong (humanism), which will of course lead to defiance against all authority—parental, civil or divine!

—Via the Defender, May 10, 1981. This was the first of three articles; though I don’t have the others, this one was worth printing by itself! 📖

🌀 Remember in Prayer 🌀

Larry’s mother is doing well, as is Marie McNatt after their surgeries. Sometime shortly, Hazel Griffin will also be having cataract surgery. Tim is trying to get out of bed more, but it is simply exhausting.

Let’s continue to pray for those who can’t meet with us, including: Lois Adams, Ruth Black, Carolyn Dennis, Dot and Tim Hice, Polly McNatt, and Hazel Teeples.