



“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053

The True Needs of Our Young People

Bob Patterson

In dealing with this question, immediately what comes to my mind is the great number of those within the church who have and continue to promote the idea that the church is to be a recreational center which will keep our children occupied by providing various kinds of activities and recreation. So often we hear the cry, “What we need is a youth minister!” Over the weeks, months, and years that bulletins have passed across my desk, it has become very apparent that many times this turns out to be a “ministry” of pizza parties, trips to Six Flags, cook outs, bowling, canoeing and ski trips—and, the “youth minister” is a “glorified baby-sitter” for the parents who have vacated their parental responsibility and left it in the hands of one who is usually just out of his teenage years himself. Brethren, is this really what our young people need?

In considering the needs of our young people, let me suggest these areas for your consideration:

OUR CHILDREN NEED GODLY HOMES/PARENTS! The apostle Paul, in Ephesians 6:4, lays upon the father the responsibility in the home environment, to see that the children are brought up “in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Even under Moses’ law the instruction was given concerning the laws of God, “Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children” (Deuteronomy 6:7). As fathers and mothers, we must recognize that the greatest

impact in the lives of our children in leading them toward heaven will come from godly parents. On the other hand, if that responsibility is neglected, vacated, or left to someone else, it may very well result in pushing our children toward a Godless eternity!

OUR CHILDREN NEED LOVE! Our society is characterized by an “always be positive” posture. When it comes to our children, they do not always need our approval, and very often proper love for them on the part of parents will result in their discipline rather than approval (cf. Hebrews 12:5-11). True Biblical love is not weak, permissive, or tolerant of wrong. All parents must recognize that our children need love, and must have love in the Biblical way and measure!

OUR CHILDREN NEED THE RIGHT EXAMPLES BEFORE THEM! In noting the faith which was in Timothy, Paul then says, “which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also” (2 Timothy 1:5). No one can doubt the influence that these two women had upon Timothy as they taught and lived that truth before him. Every member of the body of Christ has the privilege of teaching and living the truth as we walk wisely before all (Ephesians 5:15-16; Colossians 4:5). Our children not only need to be taught the truth, but that truth is to be supported by parents allowing their children to see the truth applied and lived out in their daily lives. This is so vital as parents “train up a child in the way that he should go,” (Proverbs 2:6).

OUR CHILDREN NEED A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY! Needless to say, there’s no one else in a better position than parents to provide responsibility for their children. It is part of training a child as they are brought up “in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). Certainly, age and maturity must be a consideration as responsibilities are placed before them. Nevertheless, responsibility before God, in the home, toward authority, and in regard to fellow man must be taught (Matthew 22:37-39; Colossians 4:20; Romans 13:1-7; Galatians 6:10).

OUR CHILDREN NEED TO HAVE PERSONAL FAITH IN THE WORD OF GOD! In Romans 10:17 we read, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” There is no exception to that! Faith and the matter of conviction are not (and will not be) the result of hot dogs, ski trips, and ball games! There is nothing that can take the place of Bible instruction and personal study for providing that which spiritually benefits anyone (John 8:32; Titus 2:11-12; James 1:21; 1 Peter 2:2). Our children need to hear, know, and understand “what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:17)!

I’m afraid that we, in the church, are beginning to pay dearly because of the failure on our part to provide what our children truly need. As we look over this list of needs concerning our children, may each of us determine that we are going to do all we can to insure that every one of these areas will be given the proper attention.

Does the Bible Teach Men Are Born Sinners?

David B. Smith

Calvinism, a system of thought attributed formally to John Calvin, exists as one of the darkest clouds over the religious world. This compilation of false doctrine is generally divided into five primary points, beginning with the notion that all men are born in sin. Many know the first point of Calvinism as the doctrine of “Original Sin” or “Total Hereditary Depravity.” In the words of an advocate, “From conception and birth man is polluted with sin because of the fall of Adam” [Edwin Palmer, *The Five Points of Calvinism*, p. 13].

But from cover to cover the Bible speaks otherwise. Sin is the act of transgressing the law of God (1 John 3:4). No man, except Adam, has committed Adam’s specific sin. Therefore, the guilt of sin is restricted exclusively to the one who commits the sin. The result, of course, is that no man inherits the sin (or sins) of another (Ezekiel 18:20). To then suggest that all men are born polluted with sin because of the fall of Adam, is to contradict completely the simple affirmation of the Bible, that “*the son shall not bear the iniquity of the father*” (Ezekiel 18:20). Accordingly, it would be slanderous to use Psalm 51:5 in an attempt to support the false doctrine of Original Sin. David (in Psalm 51:5) was merely expressing the fact that he was born into a world full of sin; babies are not sinners, for they have committed no sin. In fact, Jesus used the purity of children to describe the character required of the citizens of the kingdom, the church (Matthew 18:3; 19:14). Hence, the Bible teaches that men come into the world free of all sin. While all men are subject to the consequence of Adam’s sin, physical death (Romans 5:12), men are not born sinners.



God’s Guide for My Life

Interesting Quote from the forefathers of the United States:

“We are both at a period of life when it is our duty to relax our grasp on the world fast receding, and fix our thoughts, desires, and affections on One who knows no change. I trust in God that, through the merits and atonements of His Son, we may both be prepared for the inevitable change.” – James Buchanan, fifteenth President of the United States; from “Life of James Buchanan” by George Tichnor Curtis (Page 56; S.A. Northrop)

Observations and Concerns

October 5, 2022

Welcome Visitors! Your Presence is our Pleasure.

“For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD *endureth* for ever. Praise ye the LORD.” (Psalm 117:2).

Expression of Gratitude: For the hope and support faithful brethren provide by teaching and preaching the truth in love and holding fast to sound doctrine both here and elsewhere.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Bill Dilks** began chemo and radiation for his cancer this week.
- ▶ **Joyce Cash** is having dizzy spells and unable to attend worship services.
- ▶ Mike Roberts, preacher in Porter, has been having several health issues.

Extended Prayer List: **Dan & Marcella Dennis** – ongoing health issues; **Bill Dilks** – cancer; **Sammy Gray** – continual health concerns; **Dale & Betty Jackson** – prolonged health issues; **Chuck Northrop** – blood disorder; **Vance & Darla Smith** – extended health problems; **Pat Taylor** – ongoing health issues; **Sam Orr** – extended health concerns.

The start of the new quarter for the Sunday morning adult Bible class will be October 9. Doyle Jackson will be teaching. Adults need to bring their Foundations workbooks, and the study will resume with **1 Samuel 25:2-22: “David and Nabal.”**

The **Nelsons** invite everyone to their house on Friday, October 7 at 5:30 PM for hot dogs and chili. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert. See Chris or Chelley if you have any questions.

Azalea Gospel Meeting, October 16-19, Jamie Beller, Theme: **“But Grow...”**

Lee & Walnut Gospel Meeting, October 23-26, BJ Clarke, Theme: **“The Power of One.”**

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
	Wednesday, Oct. 5	Sunday, Oct. 9 AM	Sunday, Oct. 9 PM
Sundays			
Bible Classes. . . 9:30 AM	Chris Nelson	Ross Swearingen	Paul Praschnik
Worship 10:30 AM	Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen
Worship 5:00 PM	Doyle Jackson	Paul Praschnik	Doyle Jackson
Wednesdays			
Bible Classes. . . 7:00 PM		Chris Nelson	Chris Nelson
Website: oologahcofc.org		Ross Swearingen	
	Chuck Northrop	Paul Praschnik	
	Russ Earl	Chris Nelson	Chris Nelson