

Be Careful, You're Bending That Twig

We are all aware of the old proverb that says: "As a twig is bent, so will it grow." And when we seriously consider this, we know it is true. But it is so easy to forget this lesson. For parents, Solomon expressed the same principle when he said, "Train up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6).

Parents, remember, you are bending that twig. One way or the other, to the right or to the left, for better or for worse, you are determining the course of life which that child will take. Be careful, lest you bend it in the wrong way!

Paul commanded parents to "Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). This includes:

1) Train your children in morality--in clean thoughts, words, and deeds. "Wild oats" (corruption) that is practiced in childhood and adolescence cannot be productive of purity later. If you complacently watch their immodesty in childhood, you can expect to see impurity in adulthood.

2) Train them in honesty. It is still the best policy! Help them to regard truth and fidelity as precious qualities. Show them, by word and by example that half-truth is only a lie and that a man's word should be as good as his bond.

3) Train them to respect authority, always - the policeman, the teacher, the parent, and the Lord. If they do not learn to respect the first three, they will hardly respect the Lord either.

Your children deserve the best you can give them. They did not ask to be born, and their destiny is not really theirs alone, but in your strong or weak will. And the best you can give them is not just measured in education, culture, financial security, etc., but in character which you produce in them.

Yes, you are bending that twig. Be sure you bend it right.

- by Leslie Diestelkamp

License to Complain

We read the other day of a church that was issuing a *LICENSE TO COMPLAIN* to all members who applied and qualified. To qualify the applicant had to certify:

- I attend all regular and special worship services of the church, expecting a blessing from each experience.
- I pray each day for fellow-members of the congregation that they may be strong and faithful in the Lord.
- I see that my children are present and take part in the Bible classes that are provided for them.
- I volunteer for, gladly accept, and enthusiastically carry out responsibilities in the church.
- I visit the sick and shut-ins and help in evangelistic calling on prospective members.
- I regularly and systematically give of my income to the congregation, always praying for God's help in making me aware of my financial obligations.
- I firmly believe others in the congregation are motivated by good will in their relationship to and actions toward me and interpret them that way even as I anticipate their love and understanding of me.

It is interesting to note that the church reported that no licenses were issued. Those who applied were not qualified, and those who qualified did not apply!

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Where Do You Want To Go?

One of the major thoroughfares in our city is named Broad Street. It is a very popular place to be during rush hour. Not only does it take people to the places they desire to go, but also gives

them plenty of room in which to travel. A narrow one-lane path would never do.

The Lord also spoke of a broad way. It is wide enough to accommodate as many as desire it. Its spacious lanes welcome as much baggage as we wish to take. It is the most popular way to travel. It requires nothing from us. We can live it up on this street without fear of cross-examination.

The only drawback is its destination. "*For wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat*" (Mt.7:13).

Fortunately, there is an alternative to this deceptive street: The strait and narrow path. This is a more difficult way to travel. Some effort is required just to enter this road. The way is narrow, requiring its travelers to be constantly on guard lest they fall. It is not a very popular way to journey. Few people even find this road. This is not because they are unwelcome, but because they are unwilling to pay its toll.

The advantage to this way is its destination. "*Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it*" (Mt. 7: 14) . Will your road take you where you want to go?

- by Rick Duggin

In Troubling Times

Most folks stay quite concerned by developments in the news. With nations fighting nations, and terrorists fighting everyone (it seems), there is good cause for alarm. Even in our own country there are serious signs of unrest and strife.

The Bible addresses these things, and tells us how we ought to react as the people of God:

1. PRAY:

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." (1 Timothy 2:1,2).

2. DEVELOP A STRONG DETERMINATION TO DO RIGHT REGARDLESS OF WHAT MAY HAPPEN:

We tend to take our great liberties for granted. The time may come when, for any number of reasons, these freedoms will no longer be ours. We need to resolve right now that we will be faithful to our Lord. No matter what happens, "we ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:28).

3. AVOID WORRY:

"Take therefore no thought (do not worry - NKJV) for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." (Matthew 6:34)

4. MAINTAIN HOPE:

"He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee, so that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." (Hebrews 13:5,6).

- by Greg Gwin