

The Influence of the Home on the Church of Tomorrow

Lesson Texts: **Daniel 2:44 & 1 Corinthians 15:24**

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **Daniel 2:44** - And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.
1. This prophecy was given in the 6th century B.C., some 600 years before the birth of Christ and some 630 years before the establishment of the Lord's Church.
 2. The fact that that God of heave would set up a king that would never be destroyed suggests:
 - a. That kingdom would never be destroyed.
 - b. That kingdom would never be defeated.
 - c. That kingdom would have the permanency that lacks in the kingdoms of men.
 - d. That kingdom would have a future for all generations that would be born after its establishment.
- B. **1 Corinthians 15:24** - Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.
1. The kingdom/Church was established in Jerusalem on May 28, 30 A.D. and has existed ever since.
 2. The fact that the kingdom will continue on the earth until Jesus comes again ad delivers it to God the Father, suggests that the church will have a future everyday on this earth until it is called up to meet Christ in the air.
- C. We hear the expression 'Church of tomorrow.'
1. Often it is used in a prayer or in a reference being made about children or teens who attend services of the Lord's church.
 2. When such obey the Gospel of Christ, they become a part of the church now!
 3. Certainly they will grow and attain roles in adulthood they do not have in youth.
- D. Question: If the church of tomorrow (future) is or is not pleasing to God, who shall have influenced it the most?
1. Kind listeners, I am persuaded that the homes of today will make or break the church of tomorrow.

2. The influence of the home on the church of tomorrow is seen from the influence of the homes of yesterday have had on the church of today.
- E. Today the questions if often asked, and debated, "Is the church losing its young people?"
1. Some believe that it is.
 2. Some others believe that it isn't.
 3. Some studies in recent year have been more encouraging that we are not losing our young people in the great numbers that many believe. Be that as it may because that is not our study for this hour.
 4. Brethren, think about this: If young people are lost, it is by the home rather than by the church. Please observe the following:
 - a. Between birth and age **21**, the average child spends **105,000** hours awake.
 - b. Of those **105,000** hours of awakened time:
 1. Some **2,100** are spent in Bible study and worship.
 2. Some **10,000** are spent in secular school.
 3. Some **92,000** are spent at home.
 5. The home must shoulder the greater responsibility in training children because the children spends most of his time there.
- F. Therefore, the question should be, "Is the home losing the church of tomorrow?"
- G. Let us consider the influence of the home on the church of tomorrow.

CONSIDER THE HOME'S INFLUENCE ON THE CONCEPT OF GOD HELD BY THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW.

- A. The Bible often refers to God as Father,
1. **2 Corinthians 6:17-18** - Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. I will be a **Father** to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."
 2. **Matthew 6:9** – In this manner, therefore pray: Our father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
- B. What do you think of when you hear the term "father?"
1. Do you think of the dictionary definition? "Father" from the Greek root which means "nourisher," "protector," "upholder." . . . Probably not,
 2. Do you think of the heart definition? Faces, pictures, events, and emotions that come to mind rather than words.
 - a. You think of your own father.
 - b. Your concept of what a father is is based upon your own experiences with your father.
- C. Our concept of the term "father" greatly determines our concept of God, the Heavenly Father.

1. God uses earthly fathers as an example of the fact that He disciplines and trains His children. **Hebrews 12:5-10** - And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

Note: If a father does not discipline his child, the child will have difficulty accepting the discipline of God. Do you see the correlation?

2. God uses earthly fathers to illustrate how he deals with His children's prayers. **Luke 11:11-13** - If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?

Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

- a. If a father gives his son everything he asks for, that child will reject God when he refuses to give him what is not good for him. **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** - And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- b. If a father does not give his son anything, that child may see God as a stingy being rather than all-benevolent. **James 1:5** - If any of you lacks

wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

3. God uses earthly fathers to illustrate how loving, merciful, and forgiving He is. The classic story of this is the prodigal son as recorded in Luke 15:11-32.
 - a. If a father is not loving, merciful, and forgiving, the child may see the Heavenly Father as unloving, unmerciful, and unforgiving.
 - b. It is said that Martin Luther's father was so stern, harsh, and unloving that he had difficulty for a long time with praying, "Our Father who rt in heaven . . ."

D. Thus, the home will exert a tremendous influence on the church of tomorrow in terms of its concept of God the father.

CONSIDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE HOME ON THE RESPECT OF THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW HAS FOR AUTHORITY.

A. There are several areas in which proper respect of authority is commanded in the Bible.

1. Authority of Christ over the church. **Colossians 1:18-19** - And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.
2. Authority of the Word of God. **Hebrews 12:25** - See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven.
3. Authority of elders over the local congregation. **Hebrews 13: 7, 17** - Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.
4. Civil authority.
 - a. **Romans 13: 1** - Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.
 - b. **1 Peter 2:13** - Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.
5. Authority of husband over wife and parents over their children.

- a. **Ephesians 5:22-23** - Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.
 - b. **Ephesians 6:1** - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
- B. The home is where respect or disrespect for all or any of these is learned.
1. H. Leo Boles –(Gospel Advocate – April 40, 1931- page 520) – wrote, “The parent stands to the child, in the years of formation of its character and habits, in the place of God and all other authority.”
 2. School teachers, and others, will quickly know at the beginning of a new school year, which student have been taught respect and which ones have not.
 3. If a child is not taught respect for his parents’ authority, he will not likely respect authority of any kind, whether teacher, principal, boss, policeman, or even God. The answer to these problems begins with **Ephesians 6:1** - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

CONSIDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE HOME ON THE MORAL AND SPIRITUAL CLIMATE OF THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW.

A. Moral values are born at home. Children learn them from the ordinary rituals of the family . . . What is said, and done, and how.

Deuteronomy 6:1-5 - Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess,

that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you -- 'a land flowing with milk and honey.'

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

1. From the normal conversations of the day, the child absorbs the parents’ attitude toward each other . . . others . . . school . . . government . . .and other institutions in society and the community.
2. From the prayers prayed at mealtime (or from the absence of such a prayer) the child learns something.
3. From the way the parents express their affection (or do not express their affection for each other) the child learns something.
4. From the way they use their time, he learns what their real priorities are.

- B. The greatest single factor that shapes our children's behavior is **OUR BEHAVIOR**. Many adult problems have roots in childhood.
1. Adults who have a history of child abuse are often found to have been victims of child abuse in their youth.
 2. Wife-beaters often come from homes where violence, including wife-beating, spousal abuse, etc., was a part of the daily routine.
- C. The Bible suggests some areas in which the parents' example influences the moral and spiritual climate of the church.
1. Faith. **2 Timothy 1:5** – When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.
 2. Modesty, **1 Timothy 2:9** – In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing.
 3. Love. **Titus 2:4** – That they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children.
 4. Proper behavior. **Titus 2:3** - The older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things.
 5. Goodness. **Titus 2:5** – To be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.
- D. Parents, will your children be faithful Christians in the church of tomorrow? There is no stronger indicator than the home in determining this.
1. A number of congregations have conducted in-depth studies of all the factors available to learn what is needed to keep the young people faithful.
 2. One central truth emerges for the materials gathered: Faithfulness of the young person to Jesus Christ doesn't have anything to do with special programs or teachers. It is not dependent on whether they are members of a large congregation or a small one. **The single-most important factor is their own immediate family.**
 3. Look at the statistics:
 - a. **Where both parents were faithful to the Lord**, and that includes active interest in the local congregation's programs, **93% of the youth remained faithful.**
 - b. **If one of the parents was faithful**, that figure dropped to **73%**.
 - c. **Where the parents were only what we call reasonably active** in the Lord's Work, **53%** of the young people remained active.
 - d. The shocker! **In those case where both the parents attend only infrequently**, the percentage of children who remained faithful to the Lord dropped to **6%**. So many . . . far too many . . . fit into this last category.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Brethren, the influence of the home today upon the church of tomorrow is great.
- B. Instead of asking, “Why isn’t the church doing more to save my children?, you need to be asking, “Why is my home not doing more to train them?”
- C. Three major things are needed:
 - 1. More fathers like God. **Ephesians 5:1** – Therefore be followers of God as dear children.
 - 2. More parents willing to teach their children to obey them and consequently, all proper authority.
 - 3. More parents devoted to God and His high moral standards for His people.
- D. If we can have these I am confident that the church of tomorrow will be more pleasing to God.
- E. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation.**