**Raising Godly Children in an Ungodly World**

**Moral Decline in America**

* On January 29th, 1919 the 18th amendment was ratified which prohibited the manufacture, transportation, and sale of intoxicating liquor.
	+ Bootlegging, illegal drinking spots known as *speakeasies*, and the rise in gang violence contributed to the decrease in support for Prohibition and ultimately the ratification of the 21st amendment in 1933 which repealed the 18th amendment – bringing prohibition to a close.
	+ **Now alcohol is a normal social beverage easily and readily available even to minors.**
* In July of 1925, a teacher named John T. Scopes went to trial for teaching evolution over creation in a public school, violating a Tennessee state law which made it a misdemeanor punishable by fine to “teach any theory that denies the story of the Divine Creation of man as taught in the Bible, and to teach instead that man has descended from a lower order of animals.” He was found guilty as charged.
	+ **Evolution is now taught as fact while creation is left out of schools.**
* In the 1950’s, TV censorship prohibited profanity, sex, and other immoral activities from being shown on screen.
	+ **Husband’s and Wives’ rooms were shown with two separate beds.**
	+ **Now most shows emphasize and glorify promiscuity, homosexuality, adultery, drinking, drugs, language, and the like.**
* In 1973 the Roe v. Wade decision made abortion legal in the United States.
	+ **Since then, 54,559,615 human beings have been murdered by being aborted.**
	+ **Approximately 1.21 million abortions per year.**
	+ **In the same time frame as the Holocaust there are about 1.3 million more murders in the U.S. due to abortion.**
	+ **This has become socially accepted as a woman’s right.**
* In 2015 the Supreme Court ruled that gay marriage was legal in all states.
* **These are just a few of many indications and examples of moral decline in our country.**
* **This is the world our children, and our future children will be introduced to at some point in their lives.**
* **How do we raise Godly Children in an Ungodly World?**
1. Nothing New Under the Sun
* ***“That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:9)***.
	+ **It can be easy to excuse parenting failures, and disorderly children on the pervasive immorality of the time. But is that a legitimate excuse?**
* Cain murdered Abel (**cf. Genesis 4**).
	+ Children offered to false god, Molech (**cf. 2 Kings 23:10**).
* Every thought evil continually in Noah’s time (***cf. Genesis 6:5 – “every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”***)
* **There are many other examples we could give that show immorality has always been an extreme problem that God’s people had to deal with.**
	+ **The instruction of the Bible for parenting remains legitimate, and will continue to prove to be an indispensable guideline for raising children.**
		- **Not parenting books filled with man’s wisdom, and philosophy. But the inspired Word of God (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16-17).**
1. The Home.
2. Marriage – the oldest institution.
* **Genesis 2:21-24; 1:27-28** – Marriage is the foundation of all institutions, for it is the first.
	+ The marriage relationship produces life, and provides the first sense of moral compass to following generations.
	+ ***A child’s initial impression of who God is, and what our relationship to Him should be, comes directly from their parents.***
* ***“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6)***.
	+ ***This starts with the conformity of the husband and wife to the divine blueprint of marriage. 🡪***
1. Marriage – the fundamental construct.
* Man is head – **1 Corinthians 11:3** – Man is the authority in the home.
	+ **A child’s understanding, and respect for authority begins with the wife’s submission to her husband. (cf. Ephesians 5:24).**
* Man is loving – **Ephesians 5:25** – The authority man possesses should not be used as a vice.
	+ **When a husband treats a wife *“as being heirs together of the grace of life”* (1 Peter 3:7), a child will not view submission to authority as oppressive, but helpful and right.**
* ***Society defiles itself with the reversal of roles in ungodly propaganda. Things don’t work as well when they aren’t functioning as God has designed them to function.***
* ***A properly functioning marriage transitions to the value a child perceives in his father’s and mother’s instruction 🡪***
	+ ***“hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; for they will be a graceful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck” (Proverbs 1:8-9).***
1. Instruction
2. Obey your parents – a universal rule for children, and something parents can expect.
* ***Parents need to recognize that children have no reasonable motive for disobedience (save for ungodly instruction from the parents).***
	+ ***It is a disservice to the child when parents yield to their demands.***
* **Ephesians 6:1-3** – This is the standard of right!
1. The father – the primary spiritual nurturer.
* Providing financially is an important aspect of fatherhood (**cf. 1 Timothy 5:8**).
* ***However, it is not the only, nor the most important facet of being a father to your child****.*
	+ **Ephesians 6:4** – Paul specifically mentions fathers.
		- ***Fathers are emphasized due to their headship of the family. They should be, and are designed to be constantly involved in their child’s learning of the Lord.***
			* ***They are to look for opportunities to teach and take them!***
		- This does not negate the responsibility of mothers to teach.
			* ***Proverbs 31:26 (A virtuous wife) – “She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.”***
			* Timothy raised and taught by women – **2 Timothy 1:3-5; 3:14-15**
		- **Instruction to our children must be grounded upon the fundamental purpose of our existence – Deuteronomy 6:6-9, 20-25**
			* ***“Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all”* (Ecclesiastes 12:13)**.
			* **A child’s integrity when mom and dad aren’t around depends upon their understanding that GOD IS!**
		- A father should have the courage to stand with Joshua – **Joshua 24:15**
			* The ultimate instruction is to serve God. By listening to parents you obey your Lord.
* ***When a child decides not to heed the instruction of the parents there is divine instruction for discipline 🡪***
1. Discipline
2. Discipline is an act of love.
* Discipline can seem harsh, but when done the correct way it brings forth good fruit – **Hebrews 12:5-11**
	+ God sometimes uses difficult situations and trials as chastisement for His spiritual children.
	+ This is the same concept of discipline from the earthly father to the earthly son **(v. 9).**
	+ ***Discipline is an action of love and embrace that reaches for that which is good for the child. 🡪***
* **Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15** – These passages scream love and care.
	+ The world would have us believe that discipline is harsh and unloving, but God tells us the opposite.
1. A lack of discipline shows neglect.
* Eli and his sons – **1 Samuel 2:12, 17, 22-25**
	+ Eli’s sons were disobedient so Eli rebuked them with words. Yet they did not listen and he didn’t take further action.
	+ Many would say he did all he could, but God thought otherwise.
	+ **(3:11-14)** – God implied that Eli could, and should have done more.
		- **He did not discipline them and it cost them their lives!**

***A proper home, instruction, and discipline is sorely needed for all children. Raising Godly Children in an Ungodly World is not a choice, but a command from our God. Many things hang in the balance when the raising of your children is considered. 🡪***

1. Raising Godly children is NEEDED!
* **Judges 2:7-15** – The next generation of Israelites after Joshua died did not know God. Thus they displeased Him.
	+ **“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.” – Ronald Reagan**
* **We must not make the mistake of assuming our children will be faithful, and have a firm conviction just because we do.**
* **They are their own person, with their own responsibilities, and their own mind.**
	+ **Faith is not inherited. It is learned, and found (cf. Romans 10:17).**
* **But it is up to the parents to guide them using the Holy parenting book – the Word of God.**
	+ ***“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6)***.

**Conclusion**

1. There is evil all about us. Our society has no Godward piety, but we must not let that affect our child rearing.
2. It is a grave responsibility being a parent – one that must not be taken lightly.
3. However, we can rest assured knowing that God’s word is sufficient for our guidance in parenting, but we must put it to use!