



#40

Theme: Our Children

Scripture: Proverbs 10:12 (NIV) *“Hatred stirs up dissension (strife), but love covers all wrongs. Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks judgement.”*

A Thought: It's a school day and mother's do what mother's do...prepare breakfast, pack a lunch, an ear check, a quick hug and kiss them on their innocent cheeks and send them on their way. Off they go! Opps! That scenario took place many years ago! In today's environment you kiss them when they step on to the bus or you walk them to school followed by a hug and a love tap. You whisper a prayer for their safety and you walk away with a tinge of apprehension. There is reason for the anxiety. Times have changed. Since the Columbine High School shooting in 1999 our educational centers of higher learning practice “lock-down” procedures, in addition, to the perennial fire drills. In the past month teen crime as run amuck! In one eastern city school six students were shot and four died from their wounds. The “lock-down” saved countless high school students from a gun-toting student. Closer to home teens are dying from gun shot wounds for no other reason than being at the wrong place at the wrong time. Young teens meet in an alley to view and cheer on the punching, the kicking the pulling of hair... two young girls in a Cage Fight possibly over a boy. In less than a school day one girl is dead. Today many school campuses experience bullying and taunting...fodder for the “strike pad” on a book of matches. One swipe can ignite a school brawl. Evil abounds. *“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.”* Isaiah 5:20-23 (NIV)

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- What lessons can we learn from the scriptures of the aforementioned?
- Men - candidly what are you lacking spiritually as a role model for your children (nieces, nephews and friends)? What can you do differently?
- Examine your daily habits and rituals. Should you spend more time with your children....not just recreation, but by way of conversation and listening.

Scriptures to read: • Isaiah 5:1-30; Dt. 28; Proverbs 8:28, 38-39, 10:17, 23, 27, 30, 29:32-36; Matt. 4:1-11, 5:19, 7:16-20; 15:11-20; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Romans 12:9-11,19, • Ephesians 4:26, 31-32; 3 John 11; James 1:21; Galatians 5:22

Quote: Charles Colson, Christian author: *“Biblical scripture teaches us to cast down every imagination and every high thing that exalted itself against the knowledge of God and bring it captive to the obedience of God.”*

Bottom Line:

As parents we know that our children are being bombarded with a worldview that loosens the moral moorings of our society. We cannot throw our hands up in the air and become unhinged to reality. Every day children leave the threshold of their homes and confront the evils of the world. It is our job to build a hedge of protection not by words but by our actions. In and out the confines of our homes it is our job to pray for them daily, to love them, to listen to them and to teach them that our Lord is there for them twenty-four seven. Like it or not...we are the role-models. Matthew 5:14 (NIV) *“You are the light on the world, A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, lest your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”* Gents, It all starts in the home. Beckoning is that spiritual clarion call to each of us.... *“You are the light on the world.”*

NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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