

Relationship-Children in our Midst

Notes Overview

INTRO: The assault on children is evident. Our adversary is a thief. He steals, kills, destroys. HISTORY. Moses. Old Testament – Child Sacrifice to Pagan gods. Planned Parenthood 2021-2022 Fiscal Year report: Abortions at 374,155. Their year end report is entitled “Relentless.” GOOD NEWS: Overturning of Roe vs Wade, the Church is stepping up w/compassion, action, real support to preserve life & heal, help Moms, restore. Child trafficking, crimes against children. CONFUSING MSG: Kids are bombarded w/ TV, social media, text books, video games, with confusing, lies about creation, identity and purpose. GOOD NEWS: Some are taking a stand, Parents are more mindful of monitoring/limiting TV, Game time, Phone time.

Let's ask, “What's being targeted?” What's being targeted is what the enemy fears. Kids are Small with X-Large potential! These are those that step forward with 2 fish, 5 loaves & help feed 5000 plus!

KIDS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST. NOW. Not just when they grow up. **Q: What can we do? What's our part to help them?**

STORY: English Poet Samuel Coleridge talked with a man who did not believe that children should be given any religious instruction at all. This man claimed that a child's mind should not be prejudiced in any direction, and when he got older he should be permitted to choose his religious options for himself.

Coleridge asked his visitor if he would like to see his garden. The man said yes. Coleridge took him out into the garden where only weeds were growing. The man looked at Coleridge in surprise and said, "Why this is not a garden! There is nothing but weeds here!" Coleridge answered, "Well, you see, I did not wish to infringe upon the liberty of the garden in any way, I was just giving the garden a chance to express itself and to choose its own production."

I asked **Q: "What can we do?"** **A: Take care of the planting of the Lord! Plant, water, tend to, guard, have relationship! THEY ARE IMPORTANT NOW!**

WHAT JESUS SAYS ABOUT CHILDREN

Q: Who is the "greatest?" Disciples question

A. WHOEVER HUMBLER like this child. Become as little children. Not the scholar who knows more, strongest, achieve the most...follow laws perfectly.

“Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, ³ and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. ⁶ “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.” Matthew 18:2-6 NKJV

THE CHILDREN IN OUR MIDST

B. LET THEM COME-DON'T HINDER THEM! He took them up close! Don't FORBID- (Greek word Koluo (Ko-loo-o). FORBID-Prevent by word or act. Hinder, keep from, *withstand*).

“Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought *them*. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw *it*, He was greatly displeased and said to them, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.”

¹⁶ And He took them up in His arms, laid *His* hands on them, and blessed them.” Mark 10:13-16 NKJV

It is our responsibility to ensure that our words, our actions, are helping pave a way TO Jesus, and not preventing or hindering them.

1. CHILDREN ARE IMPORTANT IN THE BODY OF CHRIST & IN REVIVAL

a. He will pour His Spirit out on all...(Ref. Acts 2:17-18). Jesus moves through children simply. Love, compassion, Boldness. They dream dreams, see visions, discern, speak simply and profoundly at the same time.

b. Seed will be mighty on the Earth (Psalm 112:1,2)

“Praise the LORD! Blessed *is* the man *who* fears the LORD, *Who* delights greatly in His commandments. ² His descendants will be mighty on earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed.” Psalm 112:1,2 NKJV

c. Signs will follow those who believe.

“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will

cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;”
Mark 16:16, 17 NKJV

“Children make a cry in their travail that adults do not make. When you hear the children travail, know that Jesus has one foot in the door.”

– John G. Lake

PHOTO-Child in Worship w/adult

d. Children are hungry, Thirsty. Their mouths are wide open!

“I *am* the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.” Psalm 81:10 NKJV

In Christ they can stand defiant of the Giants in our day and like David say, “Is there not a cause? Is there not a cause? Who are you to defy the True, Living God?” Have you ever seen a child with a cause? They need discipline, guidance, but have tenacious faith w/a slingshot & stone.

2.WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY AS PARENTS AND THE BODY OF CHRIST.

STATS: Many parents who say they are Christians, don't Parent according to a Biblical World View. Waters muddied by worldly philosophy, what they grew up believing

HISTORY: Israel possessing the promised land. *They did not know*, they were taught. If you don't know, ask! Be taught by the Lord and ask help from others!

DEUTERONOMY 6:6-9 NKJV

⁶ "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." RELATIONSHIP! RELATIONSHIP!

TOOTHBRUSH TRAINING VS. OSMOSIS

Discipleship through Relationship

Teaching them to be a Son, Daughter, lover of Jesus. Need Eli's for Samuels, Mordecai's for Esthers, G-ma Lois' for Timothys. We need Fathers , Mothers, Brothers, Sisters to take their place. As a family of God, we adopt, afterall, we've been adopted in ourselves! (Ephesians 1:5)

HOW CAN WE HELP? WHAT CAN WE DO?

RELATIONSHIPS AT HOME AND IN

THE BODY OF CHRIST

- Live out AUTHENTIC love for God, pursuit of Him (not just on Sundays). They want REAL!
- Show them how to Trust, Rely on the Lord for their help. Let them see you-HUMBLE.
- CONNECT with the Body of Christ. Prioritize their involvement. Ask Teachers, Pastors “How are they doing?”
- “BUILD” them up with your Words and actions. Don’t let Fortnite spend more time building with them than you do. Or Tic Tock & Culture to step in be the connection, satisfy their questions...
- Be an EXAMPLE of excellence in character, honor, hard work, diligence not “Do as I say, not as I do.”
- REPENT when you sin. *Don’t put a stumbling block or sin in your gateway* and cause them to stumble. Apologize. Humbly.
- Celebrate the dreamer! Fuel Creativity!

- Take responsibility 1st as the Spiritual leader in your home. Live a true, authentic relationship with Christ yourself.
- Help develop their gifts. Ask for help!
- Let Christ and His WORD be your Foundation. “What does God say about that?” Daily Bread.
- Discipline, instruct, train, Correct in love & truth. Not according to feelings, politically correct agenda’s but according to The Father’s Instructions. Not as a dictator.
- INVEST TIME. Trends come/go but when I talk to kids, time w/you is #1. Go on a walk. Enjoy nature. Play! Laugh! BE INVOLVED in their education, their friends, their room, their phone, listen *really* listen.

RELATIONSHIP-IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

- Not everyone can serve children in a classroom, but all can pray, support the vision in this house, take responsibility in some way. We believe in children at TLC!
- PRAY for this Generation! Be open to help outside of the Church building walls.

- CONNECT w/Parents. Show up- Truly support. Build relationship. Offer a meal, Mow the grass for a single mom, Help a Grandmother in the Grocery line who is raising her grandchildren. Ask God, "What can I do?" Ask them, "How can I help?" Send Gen Z
- Relationship-Side by side: Like NEHEMIAH

***THERE ARE CHILDREN IN OUR MIDST EVERYWHERE
THEY ARE VALUED AND ON THE FOREFRONT OF THIS
REVIVAL-LETS PLANT-LETS BUILD-HAVE RELATIONSHIP
WITH THEM***