

What Do You Want For Your Children?

Joe Slater

The question in the title could be asked of moms as well as dads, but since our country celebrates this Sunday as “Father’s Day,” we’ll focus there. You’ve heard the cliché “like father, like son.” Scripture also recognizes the tendency of sons to imitate their fathers and even previous ancestors (Acts 7:51).

So, dads, what do you want for your children? For your grandchildren? Are you teaching them by word? I hope so! But the effect of your words will be diminished unless you lead by example!

Do you want your children to learn and obey the gospel? (How could any father not want his children to become Christians?) Have you, yourself, confessed Christ as Lord and been immersed into Him?

Do you want your children to meet regularly with the brethren? You know what’s right, and you know it goes far beyond a single hour on Sunday morning. Your children will imitate your example above your words.

Do you want your children to put God first? Yes, even before ball games? birthday parties? fishing? hunting? golfing? God holds you responsible not just to tell them what is most important, but to show them!

Do you want your children to serve others joyfully? When last did you take them with you to visit someone homebound? (What a bright spot that puts in everyone’s day!)

Do you want your children to be evangelistic? If you don’t set the example, the secular world will most definitely teach them, “keep your religion to yourself!”

The list goes on endlessly. What do you want for your children?

Not A Matter of Politics

Many years ago I was working with a congregation where one of the members had formerly been the county chairman of a particular political party. Nationally, the party was going through a difficult time and he wanted to insure that I would not be bringing “politics” into the pulpit. It is something I would think that many who stand in pulpits or teach in classrooms struggle to determine: “How do I separate Biblical teaching from the political happenings in our society?”

Jesus taught us how. The Pharisees were plotting how they could entangle Jesus in His own words to destroy Him. They asked Jesus, *“Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?”* (Matt. 22:17) Jesus *“perceived their wickedness”* and had them bring a coin with which the taxes would be paid. Jesus asked them whose inscription was on the coin. When they replied *“Caesar’s,”* He said, *“Render therefore to Caesar those things that are Caesar’s and to God those things that are God’s.”* (Matt. 22:21) Jesus drew a clear line.

One of Satan’s ploys against Christians is to try to blur the lines so we are confused about where we should stand on Biblical issues by mixing them into a “political” arena. Friends, the topics of abortion (Prov. 1:10-16), homosexuality (1 Cor. 6:9), same sex “marriage” (Gen. 2:24), gambling (Eccl. 5:10; 1 Tim. 6:10), prostitution (1 Cor. 6:9), drunkenness (1 Cor. 6:10), and obeying the laws of the land (Rom. 13:1-7) are not political issues. Discrimination or wickedness driven by hate is not a political issue, but rather a very important Biblical issue that all Christians should abhor as they would any other form of evil! (Gal. 3:28; Rom. 12:9) I know far too many Christians who will not take a Biblical stand on these important issues because of their allegiance to a political position, heritage, or party. Our allegiance must always be to God and His word first above anyone or anything else. The only time a Christian should not obey the laws of man is when they conflict with God’s law. (Acts 5:29)

However, for a preacher or teacher of the gospel to present purely political views as somehow being scripture or binding because they have a certain political persuasion or belief is error and has no place in the pulpit OR the Bible classroom. I never find an instance in the Bible that indicates that part of the message of the Gospel directs someone on how they should vote based on political beliefs or allegiance. A person’s belief on economics, taxes, the application and interpretation of our Constitution, or even the interpretation and application of our country’s laws are NOT scriptural issues to be addressed or bound as God’s law. God did give the Jews a civil as well as a spiritual law in the Old Testament, but God has not given us a civil law to obey today beyond our obligation to obey the civil laws we live under as Christians. (Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13-15)

“Render therefore to Caesar those things that are Caesar’s and to God those things that are God’s.”

--Randy Reagan (Beltline Road, Irving)

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FOUR RULES OF CHURCH GROWTH

The 30-Second Rule. Most guests will make a judgment about us during the first 30 seconds after they enter. Greet people at the door with a handshake and a smile. “We’re glad you came!”

The Front Door Rule. Many people need help to find their classes or a seat in the auditorium. If they find it difficult to locate a class or a seat, they may not return.

The Ten Foot Rule. Greet any person with whom you are not familiar who comes within ten feet of you. Make eye contact and be friendly.

The Five Minute Rule. Take the first five minutes after services to seek out guests and greet them. Thank them for coming and encourage them to return. You can visit with family and friends later.

--Author Unknown