

Love the Lord and Teach your Kids

Joe Slater

Camped on the plains of Moab, Israel would cross Jordan into the promised land in only a little while. In his final speech, Moses exhorted them at length to remember the laws he had taught them, and to be true to the Lord as they settled into their new homeland.

Think of it! Only forty years ago they had come out of Egypt, where they were exposed to idolatry for centuries. Now they were headed into Canaan, where religion was morally debased and corrupted even beyond that of Egypt. Israel's craving for idolatry had been evident from Aaron's golden calf to their insincere worship of the Lord (in their hearts, they loved Moloch, Remphan, and other false gods, see Acts 7:42, 43). How could they ever keep from being swept away by the fierce currents of Canaanite paganism?

"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 might. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart; 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" (Deuteronomy 6:4-7).

In short, to escape the corrupt cults of Canaan, Israel had to do two things. First, genuinely love the true God and show it by obeying Him from the heart. Second, teach their children these same things at every opportunity.

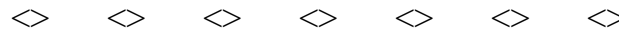
Today we live among countless denominations, sects, and cults. Our politically correct culture insists that each of them is as good as any other, and that none may be viewed as exclusively "right." Pluralism is in; being

"exclusive" is a major no-no. How shall we keep ourselves and our children from being swept away by the tide of stand-for-nothing/fall-for-anything neutrality?

First, love and obey the Lord with all your heart. Then you won't care whether or not you are politically correct. Second, teach your children to do the same. *"And you fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord"* (Ephesians 6:4).

Our youth experience tremendous pressure to conform to the worldly philosophy that all beliefs are equally praise-worthy. God, however, tells us not to conform to the world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, that we may prove what God's good, acceptable, perfect will is (Romans 12:2).

Being true to God isn't easy! Let us love and obey the Lord from the depths of our hearts; and let us teach our children to do likewise.



Corruption

It is a mantra of Hollywood and the entertainment community that their particular form of entertainment can in no way be linked to bad behavior. Violent video games, vulgar music, movies that portray godly values as a drag on a person or community, and suchlike, cannot be shown scientifically to affect society adversely, they assert.

Someone forgot to tell the Lord about scientific studies. *"Do not be deceived: Bad company ruins good morals"* (1 Cor. 15:33, ESV). The context of the remark in Corinthians pertains to those who deny the possibility of the resurrection: Paul deals with this denial as it relates to the Lord, just as he dealt with it when he spoke to those in Athens (Acts 17). He makes the application that with such influence being present, one is merely deceived when it is thought the influence can be stopped.

--Ron Thomas (Sullivan, IL); via Bulletin Gold

What Is This World Coming To?

In their search for another planet on which mankind might continue to exist, scientists concluded that "Earth could continue to host life for at least another 1.75 billion years, as long as nuclear holocaust, an errant asteroid, or some other disaster doesn't intervene."

Might I remind us of several truths:

1) *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death"* (Proverbs 14:12).

2) *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts"* (Isaiah 55:8-9).

3) *"O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps"* (Jeremiah 10:23).

4) *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness?"* (II Peter 3:10-11).

Jesus declared, *"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but my Father only"* (Matt 24:36).

Friends, it makes no difference what the scientists say. They, obviously, have no understanding of what the world is coming to. But the Bible tells us that: 1) GOD will end it; 2) in a determined time which is known only by Him.

In view of these truths it behooves us all to give our attention to being the kind of persons we ought to be in *"holy conduct and godliness"* (II Peter 3:11)?.

What is this world coming to? It's in God's hands. He will control the method and the time.

--Roy A. Crutcher (Mt. Carmel, IL) [adapted]