

**Marriage & Family God's Way:  
Children & Parents  
Eph 5:15-6:4 Part 10**

**I. What in the World is Wrong with Our Children?**

**A. Spend MOST of this morning talking about  
STATISTICS concerning children**

1. I want to SCARE YOU
2. IF you DON'T SEE your children or grandchildren here, You WILL SEE a SIGNIFICANT % of their FRIENDS and PEERS here.
3. IF you ARE NOT a PARENT of youngsters, DO NOT SHUT DOWN for these sermons
4. THESE are YOUR GRANDCHILDREN!
5. AND – how many of you TRAINED your CHILDREN BIBLICALLY for MARRIAGE and PARENTING?
6. Did you teach them all that God's Word TEACHES for Marriage and Family? Probably NOT
7. SO – They need your help now that you are Grandparents!
8. AND the "Titus 2" woman- Who's that?
  - a) It is the OLDER WOMAN in the CHURCH that God calls upon to DISCIPLE young women!
  - b) SO – all of you NEED TO KNOW THIS!
9. Yes – I want to SCARE YOU – SCARE you UNTIL DOING whatever it takes to RAISE GODLY CHILDREN – NOT to ASSUME things will be OK BECAUSE children are being raised in a CHRISTIAN HOME
10. Parenting / Grand Parenting IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT
11. It requires TRAINING and DILIGENT PRACTICE and APPLICATION

**B. Population of our Children - 2003 =**

1. 73 million children ages 0–17 in the United States,
2. = 25 percent of the population

**C. Place of Residence of our Children**

1. Places of Residence – stats by
  - a) 2 biological (or adoptive parents) = 64% of total residences (but 4% of these were just living together!)
  - b) 1 biological parent + their partner (remarried / blended families) = 7%
  - c) 1 biological parent (single parent home) = 25% (most of these with mother)
  - d) Living with neither parent (e.g. grandparent, relative, institution or no one) = 4%
2. Your parental status makes a HUGE difference in how you will turn out! For 15-17yr olds:
  - a) Enrolled in School
    - (1) Married, biological parents = 97%
    - (2) Single parent = 94%
    - (3) Neither parent = 80%
  - b) Healthy
    - (1) Married, biological parents = 86%
    - (2) Single parent = 76%
    - (3) Neither parent = 67%
  - c) Female unmarried pregnancies
    - (1) Married, biological parents = 2%
    - (2) Single parent = 9%
    - (3) Neither parent = 27%

### **D. Problems of our Children**

1. Smoking reported smoking cigarettes daily in the previous 30 days=
  - a) 4 % of 8th-graders,
  - b) 8 % of 10th-graders,
  - c) 16 % of 12th-graders
2. Drinking: five or more drinks in a row in past 2 weeks
  - a) 11 % among 8th-graders,
  - b) 22 % among 10th-graders,
  - c) 29 % among 12th-graders.
3. Illicit drug use in the past 30 days =
  - a) 8 % among 8th-graders.
  - b) 18 % among 10th-graders,
  - c) 23 % among 12th-graders.
4. Sexual Activity
  - a) 30 % have had intercourse by 15
  - b) >50% of 17 yr olds have had intercourse
  - c) 50% of teen girls having sex use the pill – where are they getting the prescription?!
  - d) 1 M AMERICAN teen girls get pregnant annually
    - (1)= 10% of ALL girls aged 10-19
    - (2)= 19% of girls having intercourse!
    - (3)= 13% of ALL pregnancies in US
    - (4)25% teen moms have 2<sup>nd</sup> child <2 years after first
    - (5)Only 56% of these pregnancies go to birth!
    - (6)40% end in abortion (other 6% are miscarriage)
    - (7)40% do not tell parents
    - (8)vast majority parents knowing support abortion
  - e) Teen pregnancy in the US =
    - (1)2X England / Canada
    - (2)9X Japan

***E. Parenting of our Children!*****1. Where are parents turning today to raise their children? (In order of Time...)**

- a) Television**
- b) Video Games / Computer Games / Internet**
- c) Schools**
- d) Daycare**
- e) Churches**
- f) Drugs**

**2. Television (huge research done here)**

- a) TV on in the home >7 hours per day
- b) Kids average 3.3 hours / day
- c) 2/3 of kids have TV in bedroom (13-17 yrs old)
- d) TV watching SECOND ONLY TO SLEEP
- e) Kids see 10's of thousands of commercials per year
  - (1) 1000-2000 for alcohol
- f) TV watching starts at age 2!
- g) TV slows brain development
- h) TV replaces activities that are better for them
  - (1) Playing with friends
  - (2) Physical activity
  - (3) Reading
  - (4) Homework
  - (5) Chores
  - (6) Time with parents
- i) Excessive TV correlated to poor grades, sleeping problems, behavior problems, obesity
- j) Violence
  - (1) TV glamorizes violence
    - (a) Fun
    - (b) Effective way to get what you want

- (c) Most violence on TV go unpunished (on TV)
- (d) Good guys beat up bad guys and kids imitate this
- (2) TV correlated to aggressive behavior
- (3) Children programs are 5-6X more violent than adult programs
- (4) Saturday morning – 25 violent acts per hour
- (5) 8000 murders seen before finishing elementary school
- (6) 10,000 rapes, assaults and murders each year seen
- (7) Greatest effect is on pre-schoolers.
- (8) TV Violence DESENSITIZES to victims of crimes and the suffering it causes.
- (9) “A 17 year long study found that teenaged boys who grew up watching more than an hour of TV each day are four times more likely to commit acts of violence than those who watched less than an hour a day.”
- (10) A 22 year long study found that watching lots of TV violence at age eight was linked to more aggressive behavior at ages 19 and at 30 years.”

### 3. Video Games / Computer Games / Internet

- a) I wanted to make sure my TV statistics were VERY CURRENT because – video / computer games / internet COMPETE for the time kids watch TV, right?
- b) WRONG – TV is NOT being replaced by computer games – they are in addition to the games!
- c) In fact – Kids who spend the MOST time on the computer or video games ALSO spend the MOST time watching TV!

- d) 28% of 13-17 yr olds have computers with internet in their rooms!
- e) 6.5 hours per DAY spent on TOTAL MEDIA TIME (TV + computer + video games + music) ON AVERAGE
  - (1) Done 7 DAYS a WEEK
  - (2)= Full time job + 5 hours overtime!
  - (3)= 3.3 hours TV
  - (4)= 1.75 hours music
  - (5)= 1 hour video games
  - (6) Compared to <1 hour on homework and <30 minutes doing chores
  - (7) AND – while they are doing homework – some of that time they are multi-tasking with entertainment
    - (a) Music
    - (b) TV
    - (c) Instant messaging
    - (d) Talking on the phone
    - (e) While doing homework!
  - (8) VERY STRICT rule in our house – STUDY in SILENCE
    - (a)= one of my keys to extreme productivity
    - (b) LET THE MIND BE FOCUSED!
- f) Video games
  - (1) Boys 2X girls but that is changing (more games targeted at girls)
  - (2) 2000 = \$6B industry / 2003 = \$11B
  - (3) In 80% of ALL homes with children
  - (4) Video games have “climbed the charts” to surpass ALL but TV and music with our children

- (5) Do I need even mention games and violence? !!!
- g) OVER 2 Million children aged 6-17 have their websites
  - (1) That was 2 years ago
  - (2) With the explosion of MYSPACE this statistic has to be WAY out-of-date
- h) Internet access
  - (1) 35% of 2-5 year olds are on the internet now!
  - (2) 60% of 6-8 year olds
  - (3) Most of these kids use access to play games and download / listen to music
- i) And what has internet brought right into the home
  - (1) Pornography of EVERY form
  - (2) HATE of every form
  - (3) VIOLENCE of every form
  - (4) LIBERALISM of every form
  - (5) ENTERTAINMENT of every form
  - (6) MATERIALISM of every form
  - (7) SHOPPING of every form

#### 4. Daycare / Schools –

- a) More women than ever are working
- b) More families are single-parented
- c) SO – more kids are farmed out daycare
- d) OR – latchkey kids who watch TV and play computer games!
- e) More tired parents are leaving the parenting to school counselors, kids friends!, and teachers / administrators
- f) AND – schools are responding!
  - (1) Counselors, psychologists, etc
  - (2) Even TEACHERS who PARENT children and develop parental relationships with kids

in their classes! - You don't have a dad – I'll be your dad!

## 5. Churches –

- a) We've ALL seen what has happened to Youth Ministry Growth!
- b) Let me add-
  - (1) Youth ministers are being trained to replace parents
    - (a) 10 years ago – in a church split, our youth minister – paper on his values = Youth ministry REPLACES parents > Jr high!
    - (b) Pastors everywhere are counseling your children WITHOUT you!
  - (2) Parents are CHOOSING their CHURCH based on where the KIDS LIKE THE YOUTH PROGRAM THE BEST!
    - (a) We've seen that here with visitors!
    - (b) We [the parents] really like it here BUT our kids want the youth program over at Church X
    - (c) "the most important priority for us is that our kids go to church and like it so that they will continue to go as adults" –
    - (d) IOW – our responsibility is merely to get them to go to church – not to turn our as godly children!
- c) Did you know that Youth Ministry is something the world doesn't have?
  - (1) Non-Church kids "hangout" – malls, parks, etc.
  - (2) Parents CAN have better visibility to what they do – and kids have a public pressure to behave
  - (3) BUT - Church kids go to "Youth Group" and parents turn their brains off thinking God is taking care of them!

- (4) Truth – Most youth ministry is a just like a adult nightclub without the alcohol
  - (a) Rock Music
  - (b) Social activities / atmosphere
  - (c) Place to meet dating partners
- (5) Then – under the same banner of “youth ministry” the drama of alcohol, drugs, and sex takes place in the shadows...
- (6) After a church split, I was asked to examine the expense record of our youth ministry – 10 years ago!
  - (a) APPALLING what money was spent on!
  - (b) Food of every form – in amounts for huge parties
  - (c) Entertainment – secular music, etc.
  - (d) “stuff” for bizarre skits, dramas, etc. (never performed for the parents and church)
  - (e) Even – parking tickets for trips to San Francisco!
  - (f) Needless to say, the Youth pastor no longer signed reimbursements!
- d) Yet – how many parents do not TEACH their children at home the Bible, and/or check out the youth activities OR participate in the youth activities - but rather just ship them off to church FOR PARENTING!
- e) How about the last area I mentioned? DRUGS!

6. Drugs – the latest TOOL for parenting!
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- a) Newsweek – [May 16, 2005 issue](#) -

**By Steven Schlozman, M.D.**

Psychiatric drugs seem to offer a modern Devil's bargain: your child's happiness, comfort and success in exchange for potentially dangerous side effects and an

unpredictable future for his or her developing brain. Many parents accept the bargain, knowing their children's maladies are real and potentially disabling. Yet the same parents suffer fresh anxiety every time a new alarm rings. How risky are these medicines?

Let's look at the latest concerns. Stimulants such as Ritalin and Adderall are leading treatments for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The most common side effects, such as appetite suppression, are easily managed, but recent studies have raised more troubling possibilities. In a small trial involving 12 children with ADHD, researchers found a high number of chromosome abnormalities in those who took methylphenidate for three months, abnormalities seen in some forms of cancer. Other studies have found that rats given stimulants as pups become passive and helpless as adults. But these preliminary findings are inconsistent with a half century of clinical experience. For example, no one has observed a marked increase in cancer among people taking stimulants. And though kids sometimes become passive during treatment, reducing the dose usually solves the problem. Doctors use anti-psychotics, mood stabilizers and antidepressants to treat a range of mood and behavioral problems in kids. Anti-psychotics ... can cause significant weight gain and increase the risk of diabetes. The mood stabilizers ... can damage the liver and dangerously alter the production of blood cells. Lithium can affect heart, thyroid and kidney function, and worsen acne. And common antidepressants may foster suicidal thoughts and actions in some kids.

We can't dismiss the dangers of these drugs—but we must also respect the dangers of the illnesses themselves. Kids with untreated ADHD lag behind kids on medication—both at school and in their emotional and physical development. They also have high rates of substance abuse. And untreated mood and anxiety

disorders are major risk factors for suicide, the third leading cause of death in young people. Though drugs can cause calamities, they usually don't. Most children make progress when they get the help they need. ... You might opt for a stimulant if it makes the difference between your child's doing or not doing his schoolwork. A behavioral approach probably makes more sense if he's a B-plus student looking for an A-minus. ... You may soon be celebrating your child's successes.

- b) Amazing! The benefits outweigh the risks
- c) It is better that your child be AN ACHIEVER than a healthy ADULT!
- d) Now with all that said – what is ADHD / ADD and how is it diagnosed?
- e) ADHD / ADD is NOT a disease!
  - (1)= behavioral symptoms treated with drugs!
  - (2)THERE IS NO TEST to determine if a CHILD NEEDS THESE DRUGS (Ritalin, etc.)
  - (3)So, how do you diagnose if your child has an “attention deficit”
  - (4)Pyschologist / Psychiatrists turn to a manual called “DSM-IV”
    - (a)Diagnostic manual by the whatever association of psychos and counselors...
    - (b)I got this summary from a drug company and checked it with several other DSM-IV listings.
  - (5)There are THREE types of ADHD – your child may have one or both of them!**
    - (a)IF they have a certain % off of each list, they’ve got the problem!**

**(b) Symptoms of *INATTENTION in ADD*  
*ADHD*:**

- A lot of people, including his parents, complain that he just doesn't seem to listen when spoken to;
- Because of not sustaining attention, or because of acting like a "space cadet," he doesn't finish his chores or homework;
- He can't keep his mind on what he's doing for very long unless it is very exciting, or very entertaining;
- He doesn't pay close attention to what he's doing, so he makes a lot of careless mistakes. Video games are an exception because they give immediate feedback, they are exciting, and they are fun. Chores and homework are not. The inattention is seen most with homework, chores, and other boring things that you want him to do;
- He's really disorganized. Most commonly seen in spending three hours to finally finish his homework, then losing it at school (it's in his backpack), or forgetting to turn it in;
- He really tries to avoid doing homework or chores;
- He gets distracted easily, or pays attention to the wrong thing;
- He is often forgetful and has to be reminded to do things often.

**(c) Symptoms of *IMPULSIVITY in Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder*:**

- He often blurts out answers in class;
- He can't wait his turn when he is playing games or at school;
- He interrupts others a lot, he just doesn't wait well;
- He tends to do things without thinking about them first;
- He does not consider the consequences of his actions.

**(d) Symptoms of *HYPERACTIVITY in Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder*:**

- He has happy hands and feet which fidget and squirm a lot;
- He just can't stay in his seat for very long when he's supposed to at school or the dinner table;
- He may run around too much, or climb on things he's not supposed to; Is too loud;
- He is "On the go" as if he is "driven by a motor";
- He talks too much;
- Leaves footprints across the ceiling

(6) What did I just describe? ALL of our KIDS

(a) And ME! (and most adults!)

(b) This is ridiculous – Turning kids into DRUG ADDICTS because they are KIDS!

(7) SERIOUSLY – those are the ONLY TESTS to determine if a child should be drugged!

(8) What is the REAL UNDERLYING TEST behind ALL of these questions?

(a) A: HOW MUCH a KID'S BEHAVIOR is BOTHERING TEACHERS & PARENTS!

(b) Even with these STUPID questions, there are MANY articles RAISING SERIOUS concern about the INADEQUATE TESTING given to kids before drugging them!

(c) HOW – Doctors / parents NOT even asking these simple questions!

## II. Had enough? !!!

### **A. That's what the kids of America**

1. Look like from the OUTSIDE
2. FACE from the OUTSIDE
3. This is THEIR WORLD of PEERS and PRESSURE

### **B. FORTUNATELY – Our Children are STRONG, MATURE CHRISTIANS, RIGHT?**

1. WRONG! – they are UNSAVED REPROBATES!
2. We'll talk about that in coming weeks!
3. POINT HERE – Your CHILDREN / Grandchildren are VULNERABLE to ALL of these INFLUENCES / PROBLEMS
4. We know how hard it is for us to withstand the world and we've got the Holy Spirit inside us!

### **C. When you look at all these problems – where's the blame lie?**

1. A: Parents, parents, parents
2. What is wrong? SELFISHNESS and PRIDE
3. What has this generation of parents been taught?
  - a) SELF-esteem
  - b) Feel Good about yourself

- c) You have to Love yourself before you can love others?
- 4. How many political and societal decisions do you see made today for the SAKE OF THE NEXT GENERATION?
  - a) Almost NONE – It's all about what ADULTS WANT TODAY!
  - b) Best example – ABORTION!
- 5. Abortion = ULTIMATE SINFUL SELFISHNESS against children
- 6. Parents
  - a) Don't want to be BOTHERED with problem children
  - b) Don't want to give up THEIR activities and Careers for sake of children
  - c) Average parent prefers to FILL THEIR OFFICE with PICTURES of their children
  - d) RATHER than FILLING their LIVES with TIME with their children – I see it all the time
- 7. And yet – do you know what children need most? QUANTITY time – not QUALITY time
- 8. What will the next generation of children be like?
  - a) A: more finely tuned models of their parents
  - b) Children get a PHD in being like you
  - c) If you are selfish – they will be selfish
  - d) If you are loving and caring – they will be
  - e) AND – if you are godly, they will be

***D. Take INVENTORY this week!***

- 1. Of your life
- 2. Of your children's lives
- 3. If I could SEE EVERYTHING in your life and their life, what would I tell you to change?
- 4. Scary thought!

5. BUT – remember what Hebrews says

[Heb 4:13](#) And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

6. God DOES SEE EVERYTHING in your life and their LIFE!

7. WHERE DOES HE WANT YOU TO CHANGE?!!!