

Teaching Children and Youth to Stand Firm in a Hostile Culture

by Ron Rudd

I. The Problem

- A. The evil around us
Ephesians 6:10-20
 - 1. This is war

- B. The enemy
John 10:10
 - 1. His agenda
 - 2. His helpers
 - 3. His methods1 Peter 5:8

- C. The culture
 - 1. Headlines
 - 2. Media hostile toward a Biblical Worldview

Quote: "My son who is a student at BIOLA shared with me. Dad you know the problem with Christians today is that we are looking at the world around us and we think we are doing pretty well. I am better than they are, I would never do what they are doing. Forgetting that the ones we are comparing ourselves with are on a downhill slide to hell and we are only two steps behind."

Bob Vernon former Police Chief of the Los Angeles Police Department

II. The Society

- A. The people
 - 1. The oblivious
 - a) Don't see the problem

 - 2. The minimizers
 - a) It's not a big deal

 - 3. The defeatists
 - a) We can't win



- 4. The conformers
 - a) If you can't beat them join them
- 5. The believers
 - a) How should we then live?

B. The Parents

- 1. Their responsibility
Deut. 6:4-9, Psalm 78:1-7
- 2. Our Children's response

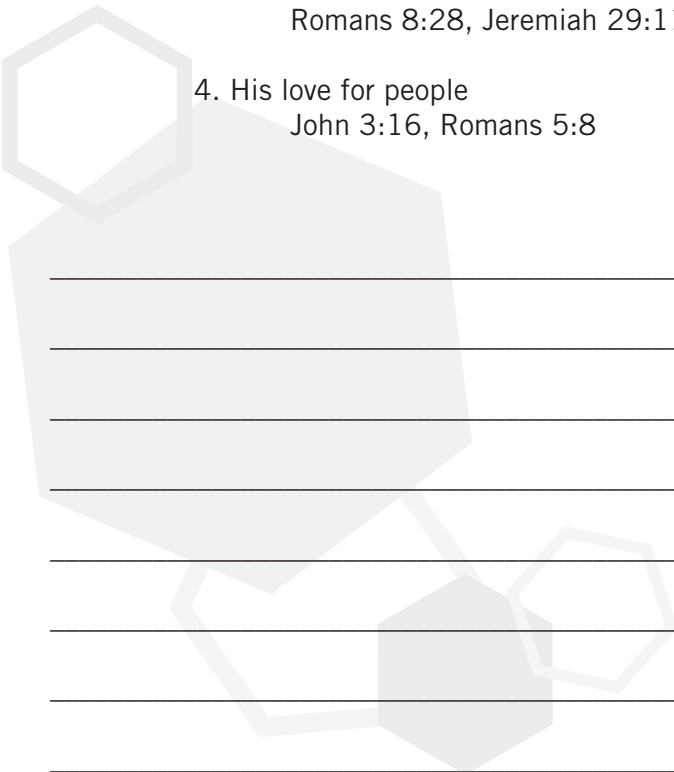
C. The Church

- 1. Its responsibility
- 2. Our response
Hebrews 13:17-18

III. The Plan

A. God's part

- 1. His purpose will stand
Psalm 103:19, Psalm 11:4, Proverbs 15:3, Deut. 3:24, Psalm 33:11
- 2. His passion for His glory
Psalm 95:3, Exodus 15:11 & 18, Romans 9:17
- 3. His plan for our good
Romans 8:28, Jeremiah 29:11
- 4. His love for people
John 3:16, Romans 5:8



B. Our part

1. Walking in the Spirit

Our task is impossible apart from him

2. Committed to the Word

2 Timothy 3:16 & 17

3. Committed to our calling as parents

a) Biblical training

Ephesians 6:4

1) To know the truth

1 John 2

Quote:

“Too many times, (Christian) parents have it as their goal to make their kids good and moral. It is as if the entire purpose of their family’s spiritual life is to shape their children into law-abiding citizens who stay out of trouble. The only problem with this goal is that it runs in contrast to what the Bible teaches.

The gospel is not about making bad people moral, but about making dead people alive. If we teach morality without the transforming power of the gospel and the necessity of a life fully surrendered to God’s will, then we are raising moral pagans. We end up teaching the wrong thing because we have the wrong objectives.”

The Johnsons continue, “Do you teach your kids “be good because the Bible tells you to” or do you teach your kids that they will never be good without Christ’s offer of grace? There is a huge difference. One leads to moralism; the other leads to brokenness. One leads to self-righteousness; the other leads to a life that realizes that Christ is everything and that nothing else matters.”

Your Imperfect and Normal Family, by Barrett and Jenifer Johnson

2) To be salt and light

Matthew 5:13-16

b) Practical training

1) To recognize evil

Quote:

“Effective parenting is more than teaching facts about life or the Bible. Our kids might be champion Bible trivia players, but this does not guarantee they will have moral character. The memorization of biblical facts and verses is a beginning, but we must go on to ask what God is teaching about Himself, ourselves, and life. Our daily walk must illustrate how to apply biblical principles in the changing circumstances of real situations. If our children see genuine satisfaction in our lives resulting from the application of wisdom, they will desire to follow our example. The Introduction to Proverbs states the moral for parents and children this way: ‘to know the art of skilful living which comes through disciplined training; to discern the words of insight’ (Proverbs 1:2)”

Raising Worldly Wise But Innocent Kids, by David Wyrzten, Discovery House Publishers

- c) Character training
Romans 5:3-5
“What would Jesus do?”

IV. The End Result

A. Success defined

Quote:

- “Success looks inward; true greatness looks upward, then outward.”
- Success is about my agenda; true greatness is about God’s agenda.”
- Success accommodates selfishness; true greatness celebrates altruism.”
- Success is about receiving; true greatness is about giving.”
- Success worships what it sees in a mirror; true greatness grieves over what it sees through its windows.
- Success pays off for now; true greatness pays off forever.”

Raising kids for TRUE Greatness by Tim Kimmel

1. Our children’s heart
 - Do they love God?
 - Do they exhibit Godly character?
 - Do they obey God’s Word?
 - Do they put their hope in God?
2. Our children’s future
 - Higher Goal – God’s glory

B. Our ultimate end

1. How will we then live?
1 John 2:12-17

How do you want your kids to look in 10, 20, 40 or 50 years from now?

What is important in 100 years from now?

