

## CAUSING ANOTHER TO STUMBLE

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Parents Cause Their Children to Fall Into Sin.
  - 1. They hear the first curse word at home.
  - 2. They learn their prejudices from mother and dad.
  - 3. They learn to hate from their parents.
  - 4. Parents gave them their first drink.
  - 5. Learned how to cheat from their parents.
  - 6. Learned to holler, scream, argue from their parents.
  - 7. Learned laziness from their parents.
  - 8. Heard Religion made fun of by parents.
    - a. Matt. 18:1-7: "At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' And Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 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. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.'"

"But 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. Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!"

### I. IF WE CAUSE OTHERS TO STUMBLE INTO SIN, WE ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.

- A. We are responsible for others:
  - 1. Mark 9:42: "And whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if

a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea."

a. Look at a few Day Care Centers in New York and California. Pornography - Molestation.

2. Rom. 14:13, 21: "Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way ... It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak."

3. 1 Cor. 10:32: "Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God."

B. We Must Not Seduce Others to Sin.

1. Eve gave the fruit to Adam.

2. Old Prophet lied to the Young Prophet. (1 Kings 13:)

3. Amnon deceived his half-sister Tamar and then raped her. (2 Sam. 13:1-17)

4. High Priests bribed false witness to lie about our Lord.

## II. LOOK AT SOME OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THESE SCRIPTURES:

A. Seducing another to commit adultery.

1. "Come on, just this one time."

B. Starting a young man or young lady down the Drunkard's Road.

C. Influence Others to start Stealing.

D. Causing someone to leave the Lord's church and be lost.

1. Happens through marrying the wrong person sometimes.

E. Atheistic Teachers "Making shipwreck" of student's faith.

F. Parents cause children to get discouraged. (Col. 3:21)

ILLUS: Young man said "I know that the Lord has forgiven me. But what is going to happen to the girls whose

virginity I stole, that I taught to drink, run with the dance hall crowds, and are still lost?

"I need to start trying to undo some of the great harm and unhappiness which I have caused others. I need to try to help save those I caused to be lost."

### **III. LOOK AT THE STUMBLING CAUSED BY CHURCH MEMBERS:**

- A. On Elder who wants to run the church.
- B. A Gossiper who constantly infuses others with poison.
- C. A Preacher whose life in the community turns people away.
- D. Hit-and-Miss church members weaken the faith of others.
  - 1. Especially their children.
- E. Ungodly Church Members cause the church to be reviled.
  - 1. Matt. 13:41-42: "The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend (cause stumbling) and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. In a Selfish World, We Cannot Live to Ourselves.
  - 1. We are responsible to save our selves.
  - 2. We are responsible to help others get to heaven.
  - 3. We are responsible if we cause others to stumble.

NOTE: None of us will ever get to heaven if we turn a deaf ear to others' needs.

- 4. Let us take up our cross and follow the Master.

"Yes, we are our brother's keeper."