

- (a) A child looks forward to each day with eager anticipation; and even though heartache may invade his little world, he gets up the next morning anxious to meet the day with new possibilities and challenges.
4. The Spirit of Forgiveness is one of the sweetest traits of a child.
- (a) He may fuss and fight with friends, but he harbors no grudge; his anger is short-lived, and soon he returns to the association of his playmates and remembers the hurt no more.
5. A keen sense of fairness belongs to children.
- (a) How often have you heard children in their play say to each other: "You're not being fair," or "No fair"? They quickly sense unfairness in others and resent all unfairness which they see in adults. Fairness is actually one form of honesty and integrity which should certainly characterize the adult Christian.
6. Freedom from prejudice is a valuable asset of childhood.
- (a) It is actually another aspect of honesty and fairness. In their uncluttered thinking, children are perfectly willing to weigh each person on his own merits - it makes little difference how big a person's bank account is or where he stands on the social register.
7. An enjoyment of simple things is another blessing of childhood.
- (a) He can enjoy picking a daisy, cuddling a puppy or stroking a kitten, more than viewing a mighty metropolis. How blessed we would be if we could benefit from all the wonders of man's ingenuity and scientific accomplishments and still retain enthusiasm and enjoyment of life's simple things.

"The Soul of the Child is the loveliest flower
 That grows in the garden of God.
 Its climb from weakness to knowledge and power,
 To the sky from the clay and the clod.
 To beauty and sweetness it grows under care,
Neglected, tis ragged and wild."

II. AS WE MATURE INTO ADULTHOOD, CERTAIN CHILDHOOD TRAITS ARE TO BE DISCARDED:

1. Selfishness is a characteristic of a very small child.
 - A. The babe in the crib has no capacity to think of anyone's needs except his own. He couldn't care less about the sleepless nights and unending labor which he causes his parents. He has no thought for the sorrows, problems and heartaches of others. He is concerned only with the things which directly affect him. His whole world centers around his own wishes. Selfishness may lead a child to throw a tantrum, kick and scream, in order to get his way. The immature adult may try a different method but the motive is the same.
 - (1) King Ahab went to bed and turned his face toward the wall, and pouted because he did not get his way. (I Kings 21:4).

2. Cruel frankness marks the childhood years.

- A. Children usually say what they think (regardless of how it may hurt others). Some things are better left unsaid and he who says everything he thinks is either a child or a fool.
 - (1) Proverbs 29:11 - "A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back."

Illustration: A teacher was trying to teach his high school students the meaning of diplomatic phraseology. One boy in the class said: "I think I understand what you mean. For instance, if I tell a girl, 'Your face would stop a clock', that is stupidity; but, if I say, "When I look into your eyes, time stands still,' that is diplomacy."

3. Discontent - Flitting from one thing to another often characterizes a child.

- A. He is seldom interested in one thing very long; he is soon looking for something different to do, something new to amuse him. In his constant search for something to keep himself happy and contented, he feels that if he could just have everything he wanted and do everything he wanted to do, he could live in a heaven on earth. He fails to

understand that real contentment comes from neither but rather is a by-product of a life centered on the invisible values, the spiritual concepts. Learning this lesson is a part of maturity.

4. Inability to accept disappointment gracefully.
 - A. If he has his heart set on a picnic, and if rain should cancel his plans, he may be pretty hard to live with for a while. He finds it difficult to accept the disappointment, to readjust his thinking, and to realize that his little world has not been permanently ruined. So many times in life we must adjust to circumstances, cooperate with the inevitable, alter plans on a moment's notice.

5. A Spirit of Envy usually characterizes children.
 - A. If a neighbor child gets a new bicycle, it is difficult for a child to rejoice over his good fortune. He is more likely to feel unhappy about it, and this is envy. Putting envy out of the heart and learning to "rejoice with them that rejoice," sincerely and genuinely, is a necessary part of spiritual maturity.

6. Impatience is another mark of childhood.
 - A. Time means nothing to them. They feel that their every whim should be satisfied right this minute. Patience must be learned, and the knocks and problems which are a part of life can help to develop it. (Romans 5:3 says: "Tribulation works patience.")

"How poor are they that have not patience!
What wound did ever heal but by degrees?
(Shakespeare)

7. Irresponsibility is another trait of childhood.
 - A. The ability to accept responsibility, to persevere, and to complete even unpleasant tasks, comes only with maturity. Christian women who have really grown up know also how to accept responsibility to work, to manage a household, to manage finances. In our nation an average of 100,000 men walk away from their homes every year and never return.

8. A tendency to blame others for their conduct characterizes children.

- A. How many times have you heard a child say: "Look what you made me do"? Many adults never outgrow this trait but go through life blaming others for their misconduct. When Aaron fell into idolatry, he blamed others for his sin. (Ex. 32:22-24). He was not man enough to accept the full responsibility for his own conduct.

III. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE INVOLVES MATURING INTO THE PERFECT MAN IN CHRIST JESUS:

- 1. God expects this of us:
 - A. I Peter 2:1-2 - "Therefore, laying aside all malice, all guile, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby."
 - B. Ephesians 4:15-16 - "But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head - Christ - from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does it share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."
 - C. II Peter 3:18 - "But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever, Amen."
 - D. I Corinthians 16:13-14 - "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all your things be done with love."
- 2. The only way to stay young is to mature.
 - A. Thus, life consists of holding on to certain traits of childhood and the putting off of others. Our success in doing this will be the difference of being saved or lost.
- 3. Failure to grow up causes unhappiness all of our lives.
- 4. We need to strive for maturity for our children's sake.

FINALLY:

- 1. This life is but a schooling-ground for something better.
 - A. II Peter 1:5-11 - "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge; to knowledge self-control; to self-control perseverance; to

perseverance godliness; to godliness brotherly kindness; to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is short-sighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things, you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ."

- B. I Cor. 13:11 - "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

A PLEA FOR THE CHILDREN

Proverbs 22:6

INTRODUCTION:

1. This training includes four areas - home, church, school and society.
2. The home alone cannot do the job even though the home is the most powerful influence.
3. It is already too late for many children.

I. WE NEED A CHRISTIAN HOME FOR EVERY BABY.

1. Babies did not ask to be born.
2. Every baby has a right to be born into a Christian home.
3. Any parent who brings a child into the world in a home not definitely Christian has betrayed the greatest trust committed to man by his God.
4. It is not the will of Jesus that even one of them should perish.
5. Our Lord warns us about becoming stumbling blocks in the way of our children.
 - A. Matthew 18:6: “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.”
 - B. Babies are on their way to eternity and are not capable of making decisions for themselves.
 - C. Good unsaved parents are stumbling blocks to them if they fail to live Christ before them.
 - D. Lukewarm Christian parents are stumbling blocks to them.
 - E. Church workers who do not go after them become stumbling blocks by their lack of interest.
 - F. Bring your children to Christ or be prepared one day to tell Him why you did not.

II. CONSIDER THE SPIRITUAL PROBLEM FACING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY.

1. Many are left without positive spiritual guidance except that given through the efforts of the churches.
2. Many are growing up in homes where religion is optional.
3. Many children have parents who are dead cells, spiritually:
 - A. They do not attend church with any regularity.
 - B. They do not read the Bible or pray with the children.
 - C. They do not practice Christianity in the home.
4. Some children come under the influence of unChristian or non-Christian schools and teachers.
5. Some grow up in communities where the churches do not care enough for their souls to win them.
6. All grow up in a society shot through with sin and corruption.

III. TAKE A LOOK AT THE FUTURE OF THESE CHILDREN:

1. Some will find and follow Christ to the end.
2. Some will furnish America her army of criminals for the next ten to twenty years. Millions of them.
3. Some will try Christ, and fall by the way.
4. Just look what some of them must survive to become Christians:
 - A. Homes that are spiritual ice boxes.
 - B. Areas of education which disparage God and the Bible.
 - C. A society with a majority on their way to Hell.
5.

These children must one day face God and an endless eternity! Go look there in the cradle, or in the yard, or there in the room, and decide if they are worth the trouble.

IV. WHAT IF THE HOME GAINS THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOSES ITS CHILDREN?

1. What if we do save America and lose our children?
2. What if we do give them the best of everything in this world, but let them face God unprepared?
3. What if we do save them from Atheism and slavery, but lose them to sin, immorality, liquor or drugs?
4. One day some of them will rise up and condemn parents, schools, and communities which neglected their spiritual care. How much do we care?

V. HAVE WE DENIED OUR CHILDREN THE RIGHTS WHICH RIGHTFULLY BELONG TO THEM?

1. To a Christian father and mother.
2. To a loyal church home which provides a balanced spiritual diet.
3. To a home where love, peace, and happiness reign.
4. To a clean community in which to grow up.
5. To be taught respect for authority and rights of others: parents, church, school, and laws.
6. To be taught adjustment to restraints, not rebellion. Every area of life holds restraints; self-expression is not the only answer.
7. To an open, loving, and frank discussion of their problems on love, courtship, sex, and marriage from parents and spiritual leaders.
8. We must Help our children in the four greatest moments:
 - A. The moment they first decide what to do with Jesus.
 - B. The moment they decide on a companion to walk through life with.
 - C. The moment they select a life's vocation.
 - D. The moment they decide to walk a closer life with the Master.

VI. OUR YOUNG PEOPLE FACE A GREAT DILEMMA AS THEY FACE THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS.

1. They do the dying and suffering during and after the war.
2. They pay the debts and clear the wreckage in the wake of war.
 - A. Never are they free of the tax burden incurred in war.
 - B. They must assume responsibility for caring for human wreckage (moral, mental, physical, social, and spiritual) left in the wake of war.
3. They are the victims of a coalition of well-ordered plans to make alcoholic and drug addicts of every young person in America.
 - A. The problems of being pawns of Society:
 - (1) Sex and crime magazines.
 - (2) Drug and liquor hounds.
 - (3) Young people's places of entertainment.
 - (4) Sometimes they must receive their education at the hands of teachers and professors who would wreck their faith in God and the Bible.
 - (5) They must grow up in a society where fully 60% of the adults, including even parents and intimate leaders, place no visible importance on religion or church.
 - (6) They are left in utter confusion and bewilderment as they sometimes observe church leaders living hypocritical and double lives.
 - (7) Because of unhappy or broken homes, many young people have no Haven of Rest, no place of refuge, from the storms of life.
 - (8) They are living in a world which does not provide enough place of responsibility to prepare them for the task of living.
 - (a) The powers of this world have pushed their loves, ambitions, and life plans into the background.

- (b) Heartstrings of lovers are brutally broken, ambitions are blasted and life plans are pigeon-holed.
- (9) Their world has marked them "The Expendables" and nations anxiously await the age of "young people expendability".
- (10) Millions of our young people can truthfully cry out, "No man careth for my soul."

VII. SOME QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Can I show my children too much affection?
2. At what age should I start disciplining the child?
3. How can I be consistent?
4. When should I start giving my child responsibilities?
5. Can I learn to enjoy my children?
6. What about stubbornness in small children?
7. Will he have a complex if I tell him "No"?
8. What if he has a temper tantrum?
9. Shall I work outside my home while he is little?
10. How can I teach him to obey?
11. Is it important to be a pal to him?
12. Why do we discipline or punish?
13. How should I discipline my child?
14. How to teach him to think for himself?
15. How to teach him to respect property rights?
16. How to answer when he says, "Well, everybody's doing it."?
17. How to get teenagers to talk about their problems?
18. When should they begin dating?

19. How can I inspire my children to Christian leadership?
20. How to deal with smoking, drinking, dancing, and petting?

CONCLUSION: OUR CHILDREN BADLY NEED A FATHER'S DISCIPLINE, A MOTHER'S SUPERVISION, THE FATHER'S AFFECTION, THE MOTHER'S AFFECTION, AND FAMILY COHESIVENESS.

LET US BUILD ON THE ROCK - THE WORD OF GOD

REMEMBER NOW THY CREATOR IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH
(Eccl. 12:1)

YOUNG PEOPLE NEED:

- A. Parents to Love Them.
- B. A Cause to Serve.
- C. A Set of Values to Follow.
 - 1. God, Christ, Bible, Heaven.
 - 2. Value Standard For:
 - (a) Home.
 - (b) Business Relations.
 - (c) Community - Social Involvement.

Guidelines For Rearing Children

Each family must work out the patterns of their own relationships. No two families will be alike. We would commend to your family, however, the following ten guidelines for parents as children grow through the first twelve years of life. These have been extremely helpful to us.

- 1. Remember that every child needs two Christian parents.
- 2. Help your child learn about limits.
- 3. Help your child learn that every action has consequences, some happy and some disappointing.
- 4. Allow each child to be an individual, and never compare him with others.
- 5. Never promise or threaten that which you do not intend to carry out.
- 6. Offer authentic manifestations of love, not just superficial ones.
- 7. Teach your child basic principles of leadership.
- 8. Do not condone the faults of your children through a misguided sense of loyalty.
- 9. Be careful always to be a good example.
- 10. Teach your children that God loves them and that they can have a close relationship with him.

Children Learn What They Live

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.
If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.
If a child lives with fear, he learns to be apprehensive.
If a child lives with pity, he learns to feel sorry for himself.
If a child lives with jealousy, he learns to feel guilty.
If a child lives with encouragement, he learns to be confident.
If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.

If a child lives with praise, he learns to be appreciative.
If a child lives with acceptance, he learns to love.
If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.
If a child lives with recognition, he learns it is good to have a goal.
If a child lives with fairness, he learns what justice is.
If a child lives with honesty, he learns what truth is.
If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith in himself and those about him.
If a child lives with friendliness, he learns the world is a nice place in which to live.

-- Author unknown.

THAT LITTLE BOY OF MINE

To get his goodnight kiss he stood
Beside my chair one night
And raised an eager face to me
A face with love alight.

And as I gathered in my arms
The son God gave to me
I thanked the lad for being good,
And hoped he'd always be.

His little arms crept around my neck,
And then I heard him say
Four simple words I shan't forget--
Four words that made me pray.

They turned a mirror on my soul,
On secrets no one knew.
They startled me, I hear them yet;
He said, "I'll be like you."

AS THE TWIG IS BENT

I took a piece of plastic clay
And gently fashioned it one day;
And as my fingers pressed it still
It shaped and yielded to my will.

I returned when day was passed;
That piece of clay was hard and
fast.
It still that early imprint wore,
And I could change it nevermore.

I took a piece of living clay
and gently formed it day by day.
I molded with all my power and art
A young child's soft and yielding
heart.

I returned again when days were gone;
He was a man, I looked upon.
He still that early imprint wore,
And I could change him nevermore.

A FATHER'S PRAYER

Dear God, my little boy of three
Has said his nightly prayer to Thee;
Before his eyes were closed in sleep
He asked that Thou his soul would keep.

And I, still kneeling at his bed,
My hand upon his tousled head,
Do ask, with deep humility,
That Thou, dear Lord, remember me.

Make me, kind Lord, a worthy dad,
That I may lead this little lad
In pathways ever fair and bright,
That I may keep his steps aright.

O God, his trust must never be
Destroyed, or even marred by me;
Let Christ in all my actions shine,
To guide this little lamb of Thine.

So for the simple things he prayed
With childish voice so unafraid,
I, trembling, ask the same from Thee;
Dear Lord, kind Lord, remember me!

---Anonymous.

THE TWENTY MOST STRESSFUL THINGS TO A CHILD
– AS RATED BY THEM

1. Losing a parent
2. Going blind
3. Being held back a year in school
4. Wetting pants in school
5. Hearing parents quarrel
6. Being caught stealing
7. Being suspected of lying
8. Receiving a bad report card
9. Being sent to the principal's office
10. Having an operation
11. Getting lost
12. Being made fun of in class
13. Moving to a new school
14. Having a scary dream
15. Not getting 100 on a test
16. Being picked last for a team
17. Losing in a game
18. Going to the dentist

< ~~TAKing ACTION: EMOTIONAL NEEDS~~

There are people in your life who help you, or hinder you, in meeting your emotional needs. List those persons in each of the following areas and identify them as helpers or hinderers. Then note what your responses mean in terms of how your emotional needs are or are not being met through these relationships.

1. Emotional security, feeling loved no matter what.
2. A sense of belonging.
3. A sense of freedom to be me.
4. The discipline to set limits on myself.
5. Feeling accepted.
6. Having the approval of significant others.
7. Being affirmed.
8. Being independent at times by depending on myself.

For Home Your Children
~~TEN COMMANDMENTS TO PREVENT ADDICTION~~

If you follow these ten commonsense commandments, your children are less likely to use drugs than children who are allowed to grow up on their own and have to figure out for themselves such things as how to relate to others and learn problem-solving skills from society.

1. Spend time with your children.
2. Share your failures and successes with your children.
3. Allow your children to make mistakes, and don't be disappointed with them when they do.
4. Accept your children as they are.
5. Love your children regardless of their actions.
6. Stand up for your values, and share them.
7. Submit yourself to God - not your church or your friends or your own preferences.
8. Once your children know the rules, follow through on the agreed-upon consequences.
9. Look for teachable moments with your children.
10. Show your children your love for your God, your spouse, and them - daily.

Kids Don't Want to Use Drugs
Dr. Joel C. Robertson

← HOW DIVORCE AFFECTS CHILDREN

It is possible for you, as a single parent, to help your children survive the trauma of divorce with high self-esteem. A lot of it depends upon the emotional health of your child: Does she feel loved, secure, worthwhile; take responsibility for herself and her actions? And a lot of it depends upon the relationship between the parents: Do you put the needs of the children before your own needs? We all know the scars of divorce will always be with them, but, yes, it is possible for you to actually produce happy, responsible, well-adjusted, fully-functional children.

We open this section on the home that is broken with a chapter from *Divorced Kids* to speak for the children. They will tell you the feeling responses they are having as they react to divorce. We then hope to show you how you can respond to meet their needs.

Laurene Johnson and Georglyn Rosenfeld
Divorced Kids

I was real young. I didn't know what was going on. I knew Dad was missing, but I didn't know why.

Eight-year-old girl

I was very mad at my father and I wanted him to die so I could remember him the way he was before he left us, not what he had turned into.

Nine-year-old boy

My dad didn't leave us. My mom took me while I was sleeping and she left him. I didn't even know about it.

Five-year-old girl

I currently reside with my grandparents. I have lived with them since I was nine. My mom and dad have both divorced three times. I went through the first divorce and my mom's second divorce. My grandparents sheltered me from the other divorces.

Eighteen-year-old boy

2. If the nuclear family can be likened to a small, quiet pond, its waters unruffled and at peace, then divorce is a large boulder hurled violently into its middle. The shock waves surge across the entire surface, leaving no edge untouched.

Virtually every American's life is touched by divorce . . . from the upper echelons of society to the homeless on the streets. Watching the rich and famous divorce has practically become a spectator sport in America. Like other sporting events, someone wins and someone loses. In divorce, unfortunately, the real losers are the children. Divorce legally severs a marriage, but it also frequently severs the parental relationship, making the children feel that their parents not only divorced each other, but also divorced them.

3. Although adults experience a significant amount of trauma while going through a divorce, children not only suffer during the process but continue to suffer long after the final papers have been signed. Children of divorce battle fear and humiliation for many years, their perception of themselves drastically altered by the loss of their family. This stigma follows these children throughout their lives, making them feel like "divorced kids." Struggling to find their own way to cope with the trauma, some children strike out with behavior problems while others succumb to crippling low self-esteem. In their weakened emotional condition, divorced kids often blame themselves for the divorce.

No one escapes the trauma of a fragmenting family – parents, children, grandparents, and extended family are all affected.

Unfortunately, kids are often the forgotten element in a divorce.

4. Parents are truly in the driver's seat, with access to friends, divorce recovery groups, support groups, church groups, lawyers, and counselors. Children are all too often left to fend for themselves. To an adult, a marriage - even with children - may be a relatively recent event in life's time line. To children, however, the family unit is all they have ever known. It is their world, containing their earliest and most profound memories. The split in the marriage cracks the deepest foundations of their life, and suddenly everything is unstable. What can they depend on? Can anything be trusted?

5. ~~VARIETY OF~~ VARIETY OF RESPONSES TO DIVORCE

There seem to be as many different reactions to divorce as there are different kinds of children. Nevertheless, most fall into several well-defined categories. And not surprisingly, the feelings children have are similar to the

grieving process that adults experience during a tragedy. In addition, they suffer from a devastating loss of self-esteem, a feeling of responsibility for the divorce, and other emotions that are frightening in their intensity.

6 ~~In this chapter,~~ we will attempt to grasp the enormity of this problem, using many actual comments from children of divorce and taking a look at the way children react to divorce in general. First, let's consider a sampling of the most common responses children have to divorce.

Sadness

A four-year-old girl said, "I cry at night when I'm in bed, but my mom never knows."

One twelve-year-old boy wrote, "I wouldn't miss my dad so much if I didn't hear my mom crying so hard every night. It's not fair my dad isn't here to do his job."

"It really hurt," commented a teen. "It was hard for me to accept not being able to live in the same house with both parents."

Many teenagers drew pictures of their feelings, sketching simple broken hearts and sad faces. Several drew dark clouds with a drizzling rain or eyes with tears pouring out. Others drew hearts being torn in two or stabbed.

Even children who welcomed their parents' divorce as an end to bitter fighting and distress still felt upset. "I felt glad," wrote one child, "but it was like losing a good friend too." Another said, "I felt sad at the time but realized later that it was best for everyone."

No matter what other reactions children may demonstrate toward their parents' breakup, a deep, pervasive sorrow is always present. Sadness and despair can dominate their lives.

And sometimes children cling to this sadness because letting go of it feels like a betrayal. Children may feel that if they are sad for "long enough," what they had will come back; by giving up the sadness, they are giving up the chance of a happy ending, as well as betraying the object of their loss.

What children need to know is that their sadness is not a "contract" that will bring back their lost parent, home, or family structure. At the same time, they need to understand that it's okay to feel sad, and they will ultimately feel happy again.

One of the best things you can do for your children is allow them to express their grief. Prolonged crying and preoccupation with the lost relationship are normal responses. They can actually help the child move through the adjustment period after the divorce. Parents who are trying to deal

with their own trauma, however, may find it difficult to deal with a grief-stricken, despairing child who is acting out feelings the parents may be trying to avoid. But children need to be assured that they will not drive their parents away if they act sad or angry. Parents frequently try to hide their own grief from their children, but by expressing it in front of them, they can validate their children's pain.

7. Doug never saw his father express any grief or sadness over the divorce. He was always told, "Your mother was the cause of all our problems and now the cause has left. We are going through a few adjustments and some hardships, but life goes on." Although Doug felt devastated by his mother's departure, he thought, "Look how strong Dad is. I should be strong too and not feel bad about it." When Doug grew up, however, he found out from his grandparents that his father was actually severely depressed over the divorce and even contemplated suicide. Realizing that his father's stoic attitude had all been a facade, Doug felt totally disillusioned and doubted whether his father had ever been emotionally open and aboveboard with him.

Contrast Doug's father with Jerry, a psychiatrist friend of mine, who was devastated when his wife of twenty years filed for divorce. For more than a month, he had frequent crying spells, which usually occurred when he was alone. One weekend when his teenage sons were visiting, they started watching a movie that reminded Jerry of his courtship days with his estranged wife, and he was overcome with sadness. First, tears ran silently down his cheeks, then he started crying, then he sobbed uncontrollably as the memories of twenty years of happiness and love, pain and sorrow came crashing down on him. His sons had never seen their father cry. Nothing they did or said could console him. Unable to handle seeing their father lose control of his emotions, they called their mother and asked her to come pick them up.

At the time, it was a scary experience for the kids, but later they told their father that it validated their own feelings of sadness and helped them realize that it was all right to cry sometimes when they felt like it. After all, if their father, a well-known psychiatrist, cried over the divorce, it must be the mentally healthy thing to do.

It is important for all of us to know that we do not have to be sad all the time or carry our grief around forever. We will always keep our memories. And the sadness for what we have lost will always be available if we need to feel it again.

6 **Feelings of Abandonment and Isolation**

A ten-year-old boy described divorce this way: "It makes me feel like my arms and legs aren't attached."

"Daddy left. Will Mommy leave me too? What will happen to me?" an eight-year-old girl wondered.

"Even when your dad is bad," an eight-year-old boy said, "you don't want him to leave because he's still your father."

"I thought it was my fault at first and I thought they hated me. Then they fought about custody and I thought nobody wanted me. The second and third times I was relieved about the divorce and had no negative feelings," wrote one tragic child.

9
Dr. Ken Magid, a psychologist, and Walt Schreiber, a marriage and family counselor in Evergreen, Colorado, collaborated in 1980 to produce a book called *Divorce is . . . A Kid's Coloring Book*, which has proved useful to many children of divorce. All the panels contain a boy and his dog. One of them shows the pair in front of the refrigerator. On the door is a note that says, "Be back in a year or two, love Mom." This fear, strongest among younger children, is quite literal. They feel they will be left to fend for themselves - after all, if one parent walked out, what's to keep the other from doing the same? Some recently divorced mothers even report that whenever they come home just five minutes late from work, they find their children hysterical.

10
The fear of abandonment often manifests itself as loneliness. Some of the pictures children drew for us describing divorce depict empty rooms with closed doors and windows, empty boxes and squares with nothing in the middle. One student caught the wrenching pain in a picture of a mangled dog lying in the street with tire treads over it and a car speeding away.

11
Children also feel abandoned when parents begin dating. A triangle of Dad, me, and his girlfriend creates much confusion. A child feels replaced by the girlfriend. Randy, an adolescent, closes the door to his room, listens to the stereo, and cuts off communication with Dad. Dad doesn't understand why Randy has stopped talking to him and says, "He's just a teenager - they're all like that." Randy experiments with new friends and drugs - he medicates himself to escape. Randy doesn't understand his feelings - he just knows he feels empty.

~~Confusion and Disorientation~~

12
Far and away the most common problem for children of divorce is an inability to understand what in the world has just happened to them. In their resourcefulness and intelligence, they arrive at a number of conclusions - many, unfortunately, that are wrong - in an effort to simply find answers and just try to cope.

"I really didn't understand at first," said one teen, looking back on his parents' divorce when he was five, "but as the years went by, I thought it was my fault. It was a very confusing time for me."

GOOD FORBID TO HAVE SUCH A BURDEN ON OUR
CHILDREN'S SHOULDERS.

A nine-year-old boy remarked, "Divorce is like two lions in a den attacking each other. You know somebody is going to get hurt real bad. All kids can do is sit behind a window and watch it happen."

A group of teenagers were asked to draw pictures of what divorce felt like to them. Many of the pictures contained turbulent, chaotic scribbling - some surrounding a brain, some enveloping a heart. One picture showed an out-of-control car careening toward a tree. One teen drew a giant question mark with arrows, like turn indicators, pointing in opposite directions as if to ask, "What do I do now?"

One boy, who had experienced five separate divorces, confessed, "It was scary the first time and also confusing. The other four times it was almost like old hat."

Children's lives revolved around their family - it is all they have ever known. To hear from Mom and Dad that they will no longer be living together is more than a child can comprehend.

Feeling Torn Between Parents

This is perhaps the most wrenching feeling kids have to struggle with, and many times parents do nothing but add fuel to the fire.

Pictures describing these feelings included many houses that were being cut in two . . . some even split by lightning. One picture showed four children trying to push the house back together while it was splitting down the middle. A teenager drew a circle with a jagged line down the middle, dark on one side and light on the other. Another drew two houses separated by a giant mountain range. One boy drew a picture of Washington and Arizona with himself in the middle and arrows pointing toward each state. Several kids drew pictures of themselves with outstretched arms, Mom pulling on one arm and Dad pulling on the other.

"Dad couldn't really be as bad as Mom says he is," said a nine-year-old girl.

"My mom cries when I tell her about Dad's girlfriend," one twelve year old said. "I can't help it if I like her just a little. She's nice to me."

"I looked at my dad's check from his boss. He makes lots of money and tells my mom he's poor. He's a liar. I can't tell him though, because he might not like me," a sixteen-year-old girl told me.

Frequently, innocent remarks by the child become a battlefield for the parents. Kids soon learn that they can no longer share things with Mom or Dad. They just get bounced back and forth between vengeful parents, and everyone ends up in trouble.

2. A group of children, parents, lawyers, and psychologists were asked to name events they believed had a significant negative impact on children in broken families. Some of the events included:

- * When one parent tells the child that he or she doesn't like that child spending time with the other parent.
- * When one parent asks the child questions about the other parent's private life.
- * When one parent says bad things about the other.
- * When relatives say bad things to the child about his or her parents.
- * When one parent tells the child not to tell some things to the other parent.
- * When parents talk to children about which parent they want to live with.
- * When parents make children feel like they have to choose between Dad and Mom.

A nine-year-old boy summed it all up when he said, "I don't care who I live with, I love you both. Please don't make me choose - just tell me."

3. **Forced Adulthood**

A surprising number of the high-school students who put their feelings into artwork drew pictures of nuclear holocausts or cataclysmic storms - they end of life as they knew it. No matter how old or young the child, divorce usually means experiencing grief and emotional trauma much sooner than most children would have. Several students drew pictures depicting death or self-destruction. One drew a tree with a hangman's noose on it.

Divorce shatters the safe, secure fantasy world of childhood, and children are suddenly forced to replace a parent's missing marriage partner and provide companionship for someone much older than themselves.

"I hate it when my mom asks me how she looks," said one fifteen-year-old boy. "I don't like being put in that situation. I wish my dad were here to do it."

"My mom doesn't think she's a good cook. I don't want her to feel bad." Then this eight-year-old girl added, "So I tell her it's good, just like Daddy used to do."

The need of a parent for an adult partner is revealed in this boy's comment: "My mom acts sexy in front of me. She just needs a boyfriend."

Divorce also imposes worries and responsibilities on children that are far beyond their age.

"I always check the liquor cabinet in the morning after they've been fighting. I measure it," a little girl tragically confessed.

One insightful nine-year-old boy said, "I hate my mom's boyfriend but I don't tell her. After all, she'll be alone someday when I'm gone, so I pretend I like him."

Arnold Lopez, a therapist in Phoenix who specializes in codependency, says he sees major lifelong issues develop when a child is placed in a parental role after a divorce. He works with adolescents who have been placed in the surrogate parent or spouse role and later find themselves in need of therapy.

Some children of divorce, after reaching adulthood, say that they feel like they've missed out on childhood by being forced to become their parents' missing partners, which is frequently regarded as a form of codependency. The most common form is when a child becomes a "surrogate spouse."

4. Codependency

According to Lopez, when the other spouse is missing, the single parent's needs for love, belonging, and support are going unmet. This is why single parents tend to become emotionally enmeshed with their children. They discuss the details of financial burdens, daily exhaustion, loneliness, disappointments, anger, and depression with one of their kids. And the children begin to see themselves in the role of a spouse. Moms in particular tend to treat a son as a spouse, a confidant. And the sons, therefore, wind up feeling as if they have to fill Mom's needs. What a burden!

One boy said, "Dad left so suddenly that if I don't take care of Mom, she might leave me too." In later years, children resent this role, and sometimes the resentment turns into anger in adolescence.

When discussing his resentments, a fourteen-year-old boy said, "I think I felt I had to be strong for my mom and my little sister. I had to be strong to help them through it . . . even though I was only five at the time."

All too frequently single parents have limited financial resources and a weak support system of family and friends who are willing, able, and close enough to help. When this situation exists, the parent may end up not only being a poor parent, but may set up a situation in which the child ends up parenting the parent.

While discussing divorce, a nineteen-year-old woman remarked, “In one day I could be a college student, my mother’s therapist, my dad’s escort, and my brother’s mother. Small wonder I was a little ditzzy that year.”

When I share my concern about this with my clients, they bend their heads in shame. Most parents innocently put their child into this role. They don’t knowingly set their children up for enmeshment. It’s just that their needs are not being met and they don’t see other choices at the time.

5. In his book *Bradshaw on the Family*, author John Bradshaw says, “Codependence is the most common family illness because it is what happens to anyone in any kind of a dysfunctional family. In every dysfunctional family, there is a primary stressor. This could be . . . Mom’s hysterical control of everyone’s feelings; Dad or Mom’s physical or verbal violence . . . the divorce . . . Anyone who becomes controlling in the family to the point of being experienced as a threat by the other members initiates the dysfunction. This member becomes the primary stressor. Each member of the family adapts to this stress in an attempt to control it. Each becomes outerdirected and lives adapting to the stressor for as long as the stress exists. Each becomes codependent on the stressor. . . . My belief is that codependence is the disease of today. All addictions are rooted in codependence, and codependence is a symptom of abandonment. We are codependent because we’ve lost our selves . . . Codependence is at bottom a spiritual problem. It is spiritual bankruptcy.

6. **How Long Does the Emotional Trauma Last?**

In our workshops, when we asked children the question, “How long did it take you to get over the divorce?” some of the responses were:

“You never get over it.” (Fifteen years after the divorce).

“I still haven’t.” (Twelve years afterward).

“It’s been four years but I’m still not over it.”

“It took me about seven years to really get over it.”

“I wasn’t upset at the time. About a year later, it hit and it lasted for a year.”

“A few years of therapy.”

“About five years.”

“Four years.”

“I still haven’t gotten over it yet. I may never.”

“I’m still trying to get over it.” (Ten years later).

The only “positive” response was:

“Not long. My dad was pretty mean.”

Clearly, the injuries sustained in a divorce heal slowly, if ever. One of the great tragedies of divorce is that children come to assume that the whole world operates like their own. They don’t feel that “living happily ever after” is possible. Many feel destined to repeat their parents’ mistakes. One college student said, “To me, getting married is like walking over a mine field; you know it’s going to explode . . . you just don’t know when!”

A young boy said, “I’ll probably grow up and get married and have babies, and then I’ll get a divorce. Everybody does.” When asked what advice he’d like to give to his mom and dad, the eighteen-year-old previously mentioned who had survived five divorces said, “Don’t get married.”

7. Divorce may be the most catastrophic event the average American family is forced to overcome. For children, it violently interrupts the already tempestuous process of growing up. The adults involved in a pitched battle with each other have the advantage of a certain amount of control, even if it’s minuscule, but children have none. This leaves the child in a wait-and-see posture, forever trying to adapt to changing conditions, torn between two parents, resiliency tested to the utmost.

Children are survivors by nature. With proper guidance, their survival skills can be greatly improved. Parents are in the best position to help their children, but unfortunately, they are usually consumed by their own struggle for survival. Extended family, friends, and other interested adults can work with the parents to provide emotional support and minimize long-term damage to the child’s mental health after a divorce.

PARENTING CHECK LIST

1. Have we been involved in an unbiblical practice?
2. Are we failing to consider our children as a high priority in our lives?
3. Do we spend more time involved in other activities -- work, social events -- than we do with our family?
4. Is most of our communication with our children negative -- injunctions shouted out quickly, in the midst of a busy pace that never stops?
5. Have we resorted to using spanking or physical punishment as an answer to every problem, rather than spending time teaching our children in a positive manner why they should follow Christian beliefs and practice?
6. Have we created unrealistic rules? Too early curfews? Too many dating restrictions?
7. Have we been too lax, which indicates to our children that we don't care how they act?
8. Is there any plan or strategy to our parenting, or is it made up of unconsidered responses to whatever crisis arises?
9. When we are wrong, do we admit this to our children?
10. Do we have a fear -- loss of a job, loss of a mate from divorce or death -- which we hide even from ourselves, which keeps us from assuming parental responsibilities that would help to stop the prodigal process?

HOW TO RAISE A CHILD FOR GOD

Study the following principles and circle the ones where you are failing:

1. Examine your expectations for your child. Are they realistic? Evaluate them in the light of the Bible (1 Cor. 13:11; Matt. 18:10; Gen. 33:12-14).
2. Love him unconditionally (Deut. 7:7; 1 John 4:10, 19).
3. Look for opportunities in which you commend him. Express appreciation for him frequently (Phil. 1:3; 1 Thess. 1:2; 2 Thess. 1:3).
4. Seldom criticize without first expressing appreciation for good points (1 Cor. 1:3-13).
5. Give him freedom to make decisions where serious issues are not at stake. Your goal should be to bring your child to maturity in Christ and not to dependence on you (Eph. 4:13-15; 6:4; Prov. 22:6; Col. 1:27-28).
6. Do not compare him with others (Gal. 6:4; 2 Cor. 10:12-13; 1 Cor. 12:4-11).
7. Never mock him or make fun of him. Do not demean or belittle your child. Beware of calling him dumb or clumsy or stupid (Matt. 7:12; Eph. 4:29-30; Col. 4:6; Prov. 12:18; 16:24).
8. Do not scold him in front of others (Matt. 16:22-23; 18:15; 1 Cor. 16:14).
9. Never make threats or promises that you do not intend to keep (Matt. 5:37; James 5:12; Col. 3:9).
10. Don't be afraid to say "no," and when you say it, mean it (Prov. 22:15; 29:15); 1 Sam. 3:13; Gen. 18:19).
11. When your child has problems or is a problem, do not overreact or lose control of yourself. Do not yell or shout or scream at him (Eph. 4:26-27; 1 Cor. 16:14; 2 Tim. 2:24-25; 1 Tim. 5:1-2).
12. Communicate optimism and expectancy. Do not communicate by word or action that you have given up on your child and are resigned to his being a failure (Philem. 21; 2 Cor. 9:1-2; 1 Cor. 13:7).
13. Make sure your child knows exactly what is expected of him. Most of the book of Proverbs is specific counsel from a father to his son.
14. Ask his advice - include him in some of the family planning (Rom. 1:11-12; 2 Tim. 4:11; 1 Tim. 4:12; John 6:5).

15. When you make a mistake with your child, admit it and ask your child for forgiveness (Matt. 5:23-24; James 5:16).
16. Have family conferences where you discuss:
 - a. Family goals
 - b. Family projects
 - c. Vacations
 - d. Devotions
 - e. Chores
 - f. Discipline
 - g. Complaints
 - h. Suggestions
 - i. Problems

Welcome contributions from your child (Ps. 128; James 1:19; 3:13-18; Titus 1:6-8; Prov. 15:22).

17. Assess his areas of strength and then encourage him to develop them. Begin with one and encourage him to really develop in this area (2 Tim. 1:16; 4:5; 1 Pet. 4:10).
18. Give him plenty of tender loving care. Be free in your expression of love by word and deed (1 Cor. 13:1-8; 16:14; John 13:34; 1 Thess. 2:7-8).
19. Practice selective reinforcement. When your child does something well, commend him. Especially let him know when his attitude and effort are what they should be (1 Thess. 1:3-10; Phil. 1:3-5; Col. 1:3-4; Eph. 1:15).
20. Be more concerned about Christian attitudes and character than you are about performance or athletic skills or clothing or external beauty or intelligence (1 Sam. 16:7; Gal. 5:22-23; 1 Pet. 3:4-5, Prov. 4:23; Matt. 23:25-28).
21. Have a lot of fun with your child. Plan to have many fun times and many special events with your child. Make a list of fun things your family can do (Ps. 128; Prov. 5:15-18; 15:13; 17:22; Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21; Eccles. 3:4; Luke 15:22-24).

22. Help your child to learn responsibility by administering discipline fairly, consistently, lovingly, and promptly (1 Sam. 3:13; Prov. 13:24; 19:18; 22:15).
23. Look upon your child as a human becoming as well as a human being. Look upon the task of raising children as a process which takes eighteen to nineteen years to complete (Eph. 6:4; Prov. 22:6; Gal. 6:9; 1 Cor. 15:58; Isa. 28:9-10).
24. Live your convictions consistently. Your child will learn more by observing your example than he will by listening to your words (Deut. 6:4-9; 1 Thess. 2:10-12; Phil. 4:9; 1 Tim. 1:5,7).
25. Recognize that you are responsible to prepare your child for life in this world and the world to come (Eph. 6:4; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 78:5-7; 2 Tim. 3:15-17).
26. Be very sensitive to the needs, feelings, fears, and opinions of your child (Matt. 18:10; Col. 3:21).
27. Treat the child as though he is important to you and accepted by you. (Matt. 18:5-6).
28. Avoid the use of words expressing anger or exasperation (Prov. 15:1; Eph. 4:31-32).
29. Maintain the practice of daily Bible reading, discussions, and prayer (Deut. 6:4-9; 2 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 6:4; Ps. 1:1-3; 78:5-8; 119:9,11).
30. Become thoroughly involved as a family in a biblical church (Heb. 10:24-25; Eph. 4:11-16).

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HOMOSEXUALITY AND OUR PERMISSIVE SOCIETY

INTRODUCTION:

1. Few sermons were preached on homosexuality from American pulpits since the founding of our great nation until the past fifteen years.
2. Now homosexuals fight for equal rights, elect fellow homosexuals to office, invade our school systems, have boys' ranches, gay bars, homosexual churches, and homosexual marriages.
3. Mechanistic psychologists do their best to prove that it is an inherited trait where the genes are faulty, or prove that it is really a disease.
4. A number of national churches have ordained homosexuals to the priesthood and to the pulpit. Some traditional churches are on the fence.
5. Many prominent leaders of the Equal Rights Amendment are publicly avowed homosexuals and lesbians.
6. When God's laws are flaunted, ethics and morality go out the window. We are part of a society that is rapidly repudiating God and sinking to its lowest level.

I. THE BIBLE CONDEMNS HOMOSEXUALITY IN POSITIVE, EXPLICIT TERMS AND CALLS IT A SIN.

A. The Old Testament condemns it:

1. Genesis 19:4-5 - "Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. And they called to Lot and said to him, 'Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally.'"

NOTE: God detested the stench of this sin which has pervaded Sodom and Gomorrah and all the cities of the plain, and he rained fire and brimstone down upon them and destroyed them.

2. Deut. 23:17-18 - "There shall be no ritual harlot of the daughters of Israel, or a perverted one of the sons of Israel. You shall not bring the hire of a harlot or the price of a dog

(male prostitute) to the house of the Lord your God for any vowed offering; for both of these are an abomination to the Lord your God."

3. Lev. 18:22 - "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination."
4. Lev. 20:13 - "If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them."
5. I Kings 14:24 (Berkley) "And male prostitutes were found in the land; they followed all the abominations of the peoples which the Lord dispossessed for the Israelites."
6. I Kings 15:12 - "And he drove out the male prostitutes from the land and removed all the idols which his fathers had made."
7. I Kings 22:46 - "The rest of the male prostitutes remaining from the days of his father, he cleaned out of the land."

NOTE: The passages show that King Jehoshaphat was aware of God's attitude towards these men and he cleaned them out of the country.

8. II Kings 23:7 - "He tore down the houses of the male prostitutes in the area of the house of the Lord ... "

NOTE: King Josiah had to repeat the process in this passage years later. The price for a decent society is for God's people to stand up and be counted from the leaders down.

This is one of the sins which helped destroy the fiber of the ten northern tribes and even Judah and led to their being carried into captivity. They had succumbed to the very sins that were to destroy.

B. The New Testament equally condemns this sin.

1. Romans 1:24-27 - "Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason

God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.”

NOTE: The Roman world was weighted down with this sin and now America is going the same way.

2. I Cor. 5:9-11 - "I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people - But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner -- not even to eat with such a person.”
3. I Cor. 6:9-10 - "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”

Malakio - passive partner

Arsenokoitai - active male partner

4. I Tim. 1:9-10 - Paul speaks of the "adulterers and perverts" which is contrary to sound doctrine.
5. Fornicator: from Pornos - a male prostitute.
 - A. Eph. 5:3-5 - "But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”
 - B. Heb. 13:4 - "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled, but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”

Rev. 21:8 - "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Rev. 22:15 - "But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murders and idolaters, and who loves and practices a lie."

NOTE: In these last four passages, the Greek text has fornicator from Pornos - a male prostitute with the plural form also including both male and female.

CONCLUSION:

1. This sin is condemned from the Book of Genesis through Revelation.
2. Those appealing to genetic causes, or a disease, or environmental justification are either ignorant of the teachings of the Scriptures or they have a flagrant disregard for the authority of God's word.

NOTE: We believe that most lesbians and homosexuals have no respect for God and His word.

3. The church must arm itself with the Christian armor of Eph. 6: and have enough courage to do battle: on the political front, on the social level, in the church, and in the schools.

NOTE: The homes of our land is the place where this needs to be driven home to our children.

4. We are living in a period of time in which our proud nation is moving to Hell. The church must fly its colors high, and while trying to save the world not to let it permeate our ranks. The price is too high - the cost dear.

THAT WHICH WILL KEEP A PERSON OUT OF HEAVEN AND CONSIGN HIM TO HELL SHOULD GIVE US ALL CONCERN.

ABORTION - A MODERN DILEMMA

Definition: (Webster): "expulsion of a fetus from the womb before it is sufficiently developed to survive."

"to end a pregnancy prematurely."

INTRODUCTION:

1. Our forefathers saw man as made in the image of God; the last generation saw him as a higher animal; the present sees man as a highly sophisticated miniaturized computer.
2. Abortion causes social convulsions. The new liberal laws and recent Supreme Court decisions have cost more lives in one year in America than the toll of all wars in American history. Federal tax money is financing abortion without the consent of taxpayers.
3. The Supreme Court decision of 1973 ruled that a woman's right to privacy was broad enough to permit her to have an abortion without the permission of her husband. And, in the case of a minor child, without the permission or knowledge of her parents. Presumably, a teenage boy can now get a vasectomy without the approval of his parents.
4. There has been a sudden change in the American legal code in this matter. In 1964, legal, safe and easy abortion in the United States was unthinkable. By 1969, it was thinkable but nonexistent. In 1972, it was legal, subject to certain limitations, in half a dozen states; and in 1973, it was legal by Supreme Court ruling, if not easily obtainable everywhere.
5. Conception: "Is the union of the male and female reproductive cells, each of which contributes an equal amount of hereditary material to the new - 23 chromosomes each for a total of 46."

"From the moment of conception, the individual possesses all of the genetic potential for every organ and every genetically determined characteristic peculiar to that particular person. From that time on, the individual needs only the incubation and nourishment by the mother in order to develop into a full-term, newborn baby."

"In terms of its genetic structure and its biological potential, the fertilized ovum is as much a human being as a newborn baby."

"After conception, the original cell multiplies rapidly by geometric progression where each daughter cell produced has exact genetic identity with the original fertilized ovum."

6. So Human Life Is A Continuum:

Conception:	Human life begins
18-25 Days:	Heart begins to beat
6 Weeks:	Baby begins to move; brain waves are present and can be recorded on an electroencephalogram
7 Weeks:	If baby's lip is tickled, he will pull away
8 Weeks:	Grabs, swims freely
10 Weeks:	The baby is so well formed he even has fingerprints
12 Weeks:	Breathes (fluid), sucks thumb, swallows, tastes, cries, sleeps and wakes, all organ systems function, including mental
Beyond 12: Birth:	Nothing new is formed, the baby grows rapidly Exits from the womb; breathes air; takes his food by mouth

CRUX: At what age would you draw the line and say that a person was not human?

I. BASIS UPON WHICH ABORTIONS ARE PERFORMED.

1. Forecastive - in view of medically detected pro-ilities of physical or mental deformity.
2. Altruistic - when pregnancy results from rape or incest.
3. Psychiatric - when maternal mental health is threatened.
4. Demographic - in view of poverty or overpopulation.
5. Personal - when the mother exercises her legal rights over her own body and privacy.

II. THERE ARE FIVE BASIC TYPES OR METHODS OF ABORTION.

1. Suction Method - The cervix is stretched open and a hollow plastic tube with a knife-like tip is inserted. The baby is cut apart and a powerful suction is used to suck the scraps into a bottle/jar.

2. D & C Method - The doctor inserts a loop-shaped steel knife into the uterus, and the baby is cut apart and removed piece by piece. Because of the danger of infection, care is used to make sure that all of the baby's body parts have been removed. Sometimes a nurse is asked to re-assemble the body and check for missing parts.
3. Prostaglandin Method - The chemical, called Prostin F2 Alpha, when it works, will produce labor and delivery at any stage of pregnancy.
4. Salt Poisoning Method - Normally used after 16 weeks old. A large needle is inserted through the mother's abdominal wall into the baby's amniotic sac. A concentrated salt solution is injected into this fluid. The baby swallows it, is poisoned, struggles, and dies - sometimes a horrible death. The following day the mother delivers a dead baby. Sometimes called "candy apple babies" because of their bright red color, a condition caused by the caustic salt solution which literally burns away the entire outer layer of the child's skin.
5. Hysterectomy or Caesarian Section - An opening is made in the abdominal wall and the baby is removed. The baby and placenta are discarded. Babies aborted by this method are almost always alive.

III. ENGLISH COMMON LAW TOGETHER WITH AMERICAN COURTS HOLD THE FETUS A PERSON WITH LEGAL RIGHTS.

1. It may be vouched in a recovery.
2. It may be an executor named in a will - though unborn.
3. It may be entitled under a charge for raising portions.
4. It may have an injunction.
5. It may have a guardian.
6. Legal writers have maintained that the unborn child in the path of an automobile is as much a person in the street as the mother.

Question: Does such a child become less a person, when, instead of an automobile, a physician's forceps, curettage or suction machine is directed to its destruction?

IV. WHEN DOES HUMAN LIFE BEGIN?

1. At conception.
2. When life or "quickening" is felt by the mother.
3. When the fetus could survive outside the mother's womb - about seven months.
4. At birth.
5. Some time after birth.
 - A. The Roman Catholic Church affirms life at conception.
 - (1) Have steadfastly opposed abortion.
 - B. Judaism affirms that life begins at birth with first breath of outside air.
 - (1) This is the classical position of the Talmud.
 - C. Protestant Churches have historically believed that life began at conception, but today there is no consensus.

V. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT LIFE EXISTS BEFORE BIRTH.

1. Genesis 25:21-24 - "Now Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived. But the children struggled together within her; and she said, If all is well, why am I this way? So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body; one people will be stronger than the other; and the older shall serve the younger. So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were twins in her womb.'
2. Exodus 21:22-23 - "If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no lasting harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if any lasting harm follows, then you shall give life for life.'"

- A. If the child is born prematurely and both the child and the woman are safe - then judgment is meted out.
 - B. But if either the woman or the child or both die - then there shall be life for life.
 - (1) This passage shows that the unborn child had life.
 - (2) It equally shows that the basic premise of the Law of Moses was "life for life."
3. Job 3:3,11,13-16 - "May the day perish on which I was born, and the night in which it was said, 'A male child is conceived.'.... Why died I not die at birth? Why did I not perish when I came from the womb? For now I would have lain still and been quiet, I would have been asleep; then I would have been at rest, with kings and counselors of the earth, who built ruins for themselves...Or with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver; or why was I not hidden like a stillborn child, like infants who never saw light?"
- A. Job considered a person at conception.
 - B. He suggested his life should have been taken at birth.
 - C. He affirms that he would thus already be resting with the rest of the dead.
4. Psalms 139:13-17 - "For You have formed my inward parts; you have covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thou knowest me through and through: my body is no mystery to thee, how I was secretly kneaded into shape and patterned in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!"
- A. David recognized that it was by the power of God that his body was fashioned. That God fully knew every facet of it and was keeping a record.
 - B. If this was true of David in the womb, why not every other fetus?

5. Ecclesiastes 11:5 - "As you do not know what is the way of the wind, or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, so you do not know the works of God who makes all things."
- A. This passage shows categorically life in the womb.
6. Luke 1:39-44 - "Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.'"

A. This passage teaches that John the Baptist was alive in his mother, Elizabeth's womb.

B. That the Holy Spirit had revealed to Elizabeth that Mary was carrying the developing body of our precious Lord.

(I) Would anyone be so brave or cruel to affirm that either Elizabeth or Mary be a part of an abortion.

7. The Bible upholds the dignity and sanctity of the human body.

A. Listen to C. S. Lewis:

"Christianity is almost the only one of the great religions which thoroughly approves of the body - which believes that matter is good, that God Himself once took on a human body, that some kind of body is going to be given to us even in Heaven and is going to be an essential part of our happiness, our beauty, and our energy. Christianity has glorified marriage more than any other religion; and nearly all of the greatest love poetry in the world has been produced by Christians."

Mere Christianity

B. Who can know what God has in his providence for the babe in the womb?

Gal. 1:15 - The apostle Paul says that God "separated him from his mother's womb" for the great mission he had for him.

VI. THERE ARE MANY SERIOUS QUESTIONS INVOLVED IN ABORTION:

1. Should abortion be performed in the case of rape?
 - A. Let it be said that conception takes place several hours after climax. This gives the woman time in most all cases to get to the hospital and prevent conception.
 - B. God has so made the female reproductive system so that she rarely conceives under the trauma of a rape situation.
 - C. Less than one percent of abortions involve deformity, incest, rape, and threat to the mother's life of every million and one-half abortions each year.
2. There is a difference in contraception and abortion.
 - A. One prevents the union of the male and female cells.
 - B. The other kills that which has been conceived.
3. Most abortions come as a result of promiscuous behaviour.
 - A. The selfish way out is to abort the child.
4. A large percentage of abortions are coming from unwed mothers. Many of them are in the age bracket of 13-18.
 - A. Georgia is second in the nation in this category.
5. How much teaching has the home done on this matter?
6. How much teaching has the church done?
7. The flippant approach to marriage in our society will surely result in unwanted children and the way out will be abortion
8. All parties involved should consider the emotional traumas which are sure to come after the abortion. If not immediately, surely in most all cases in this country, later.
 - A. Some people are emotionally scarred for life - both the man and the woman.
9. Will God put back together the aborted fetus at the resurrection? And, if so, will he give it a body to inherit heaven?

10. Would it be better for a child to be born even out of wedlock and the mother give it away rather than kill the infant?
 - A. Sometimes the loving thing to do would be to give the child to someone who would love and care for it.
11. Under what circumstances could abortion be justified?
12. The Catholic Church and most others agree that if surgeons must remove a fetus in order to get to a cancerous growth to save the mother that this is morally right.
13. Once an exception to the rule is found, what other situations might be stated which would equally be morally right?

VII. OUR LIVES ARE A GIFT FROM GOD.

Let us be thankful for our birth - for our life - and for the opportunities we have to enjoy God's world, our relatives, our friends -and our opportunities to serve God and others.

We were all put here for a purpose. Let us not waste our lives which are short and uncertain. Let us invest them in worthwhile endeavors, pointing our faces toward the eternal shore and to that harbor of heaven's shore and live forever.