

ROOTS OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

(Prov. 22:6)

Proverbs

13:24

19:15

19:18

23:13

1. "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath." Eph. 6:4
2. Young people are going to be the leaders of tomorrow's world.
 - A. We need to prepare them for the task.

I. JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IS WORLD-WIDE AND IS RISING EVERY YEAR.

1. It rose 29% from 1948-1952 says Secretary of Health and Welfare.
2. Age of child criminals is steadily decreasing.
 - A. Newest trend between ages 5 and 12 years.
 - B. Delinquency growing faster than the child population.
3. U.S. Children's Bureau said Six Million afoul of law in 1978.
 - A. Add to that the 30% who escaped the eyes of the law.
 - B. Sub-Committees, State, National, as well as local authorities are very worried.

II. WE NEED TO UNCOVER THE ROOTS OF THIS FOUL TREE OF DELINQUENCY.

1. The failure of parents to discipline and train their children.
 - A. Modern psychology says train up a child in the way he wants to go.
 - B. The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go."
2. A modern age which refuses the wisdom of the Bible way.
 - A. The first six chapters of Proverbs are to young men.
 - B. The same chapters are equally applicable to young women.

- (1) We can find no better source to govern our lives than the Bible.
- 3. Responsible citizens and leaders are delinquents also.
 - A. Children imitate responsible people in society.
 - B. If leadership is irresponsible - the children are likely to be.
 - (1) Look at the huge amounts of alcohol consumed in Washington, D.C.
 - (2) Look at the shabby lives lived by most movie stars.
- 4. The reading material of youth is violence, sex, lust, greed, fantasy.
 - A. Seduction of the Innocent, by Fredric Wertham, M.D.
 - (1) This book explains the impact of comic books on children:
 - a. Introducing the subject
 - b. What are Crime Comic books
 - c. Methods of examination
 - d. The effects of comic books on the child
 - e. The influence of comic books on reading
 - f. The contribution of crime books to delinquency
 - g. Comic books and psychosexual development
 - h. Making and makers of the comic books.
 - B. We need to run this filthy trash off our news stands in America.

III. HOW ARE WE GOING TO ADEQUATELY DEAL WITH JUVENILE DELINQUENCY?

- 1. Use the Rod of Correction (Prov. 22:15; 23:13-14).
 - A. Modern parents think they can get by without it.
- 2. Close liaison between parents and teachers is greatly needed.
 - A. Need to check with the teachers about the child's conduct.
- 3. Capable Juvenile Court Judges are needed in each county in America.

- A. Too many judges are chosen for political power rather than ability.
 - B. Too many children are sent away to reform school unnecessarily.
4. An appreciation of the Bible as a guide for happiness.
- A. Read the Bible to your children every day at home.
 - B. Bring them to Bible classes every service of the church.
 - C. Make Bible reading a search for wisdom and knowledge.

CHRISTIAN FAMILIES MUST TAKE THE LEAD TO HEAD OFF THIS TIDAL WAVE OF DELINQUENCY.

YOUNG PEOPLE NEED THREE THINGS:

- 1. A moral code to follow.
- 2. A cause to serve.
- 3. A creed to relieve.

What you believe determines how you respond to life's traumas; it determines what you become.

(Ecc. 12:1) "REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR IN THE DAYS OF YOUR YOUTH."

YOUNG PEOPLE NEED:

- 1. Parents to love them.
- 2. A cause to serve.
- 3. A set of values to follow.
 - A. God, Christ, Bible, Heaven.
 - B. Value standard for:
 - (1) Home
 - (2) Business relations
 - (3) Community - Social Involvement

GUIDELINES FOR REARING CHILDREN

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.

Each family must work out the patterns of their own relationships. No two families will be alike.

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 of 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."

AMEN!