

these errors must be contradicted by a consistent example and proper teaching from godly parents. The future of the Lord's church is dependent on our passing the truth from generation to generation.

Many congregations that existed one hundred years ago are no longer here. I am not talking about the churches who drifted into liberalism or moved their building to a better neighborhood. I am not talking about brethren who merged with another church. I am referring to congregations that no longer exist in any form. These congregations had parents who were unsuccessful in reaching their children. In time the parents aged and their children did not take their place. Their kids did not obey the Gospel or remain faithful. Eventually the children become parents and they did not teach the truth to their children. As the elderly parents die their children and grandchildren do not sustain the congregation, but have given themselves over to denominationalism or worldliness. Many churches are made up primarily of families. Grandparents, children, and grandchildren accept the same truths and keep the congregation going from one generation to the next. When these families fall away the congregation disappears.

Obviously we should be trying to reach outsiders with the Gospel. A congregation's existence should not be totally dependent on families who pass on the truth to the next generation. Even Israel gained proselytes from the Gentiles. But we recognize the majority of the nation was born Jewish just as the bulk of our congregations come from families who pass on their faith.

If it were not important for us to teach our families then the Bible would not tell us to do so in the Old Testament and the New. If our children became faithful Christians without being taught then we would not have such concerns. Some parents do not teach. Some children do not learn. Some of us teach our children, but we do not teach them well. This places our future in jeopardy.

Mooreville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooreville, IN 46158

June 2, 2019

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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Announcements

Dewey is in Millers. He would appreciate visitors.

We will be switching to trimesters in September. Teachers will teach Sunday and Wednesday for 4 months. The sign up sheet is on the board. You can also sign up for the shorter period of July and August. Assistants can also sign up to help with bulletin boards, cutting out items, and other works.

With these changes we thought it would be good to have a teachers' meeting next week at 4:00. Teachers, potential teachers, and other interested parties are welcome.

Dusty's family has gone to Danville for at least two months. Dusty will be preaching for them while they seek a new preacher. Of course, the new preacher could turn out to be Dusty if both parties agree. Pray for the Lord's will to be done for them.

**A good name
is hard to gain
but easy to
lose.**

Teach Them Well

Ron Roberts

Whitney Houston sang, “*I believe that children are our future, teach them well, and let them lead the way.*” Crosby, Stills, and Nash sang, “*Teach Your Children Well.*” Both songs recognize the need to not only teach the next generation, but to teach them well. This was necessary for the future of Israel, as well as our nation, and the church.

Psalm 78 says, “1. Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. 2. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: 3. Which we have **heard** and **known**, and our fathers have **told us**. 4. We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength, and His wonderful works that He hath done. 5. For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: 6. That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: 7. That they might set their **hope** in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments: 8. **And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation: a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.**

This Psalm was written in the days of David. The instructions were to that generation and those which should follow. They were to teach what the previous generation had taught them. This included the law, the praises, the strength, and the works of God. He refers to God giving a testimony to Jacob (Israel). The information was not new. It had been heard, known, and told by their fathers. It was to be perpetual. Through this teaching they could have hope in God. The failure of the fathers in verse 8 refers to earlier generations. This tells us that we should not honor traditions or ancestors above God’s instructions. It shows us that we are capable of breaking away from family error.

Paul said in Eph. 6:2-3, “*Honor thy father and mother: (which is the first commandment with promise:) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.*”

He is referring to the first of the ten commandments that was given with a specific promise. Of course, the assumption is that the parents were godly and teaching the children well. The promise was for a good and long life in the land of promise (Canaan).

Teaching our children well requires that we live a godly example before them, that we teach them God’s truth, and that we are consistent. The next verse tells fathers not to provoke their children to wrath. There is nothing more infuriating than inconsistency. Children need to see us do God’s will before we order them to follow it.

Let’s talk about a few specifics. We want to supplement our teaching to our children with other sources. We teach the Bible at home, but we also bring them to worship and Bible classes of the church to reinforce what we have said. Our children need to see others who follow the same teaching. We do not want them to follow us blindly. We do not want them to follow our mistakes. We do not want them to follow us until they hear a different perspective. Our goal is to get them to believe in God and obey Him in our presence or absence.

Much of our teaching must be to refute the errors our children see in others. Israel had to teach against idolatry because it was all around them in Canaan and in their history with Egypt. The subject could not be ignored.

Our children will hear and see error in people of the world. They will meet children with two fathers. They will hear professors who claim there is no God. They will see couples live together without marriage. They will hear profanity. They will see immodesty. They will be told about gods and churches that are not found in the Bible. They will be encouraged by some to put fun, school, and work ahead of worship. Some of these teachers will come from our own congregation. All of