August 2017

Families In Crisis -- What's The Answer

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FAMILIES IN CRISIS -- WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

I. My subject supposes two things:
   A. Families are in crisis.
   B. There is hopefully an answer.

II. My thought development will present the accuracy of both contentions -- yet to varying easy of accomplishment.
   A. That families are in crisis is relatively easy to prove.
   B. That there is an answer -- however evasive its occurrence appears -- will be the harder task.

1. It's like the Rio de Janeiro passenger, "Fly me to Atlanta," he said with gun in hand. "Put it away -- that's where we are going anyhow." No so -- you told me that last trip & I've been to Havana 3x."

III. There is a Family Crisis.
   A. Our age makes one.
   1. Three major characteristics of our society.
      (a) Rapid & uneven social change.
      (b) Increased social & geographical mobility.
      (c) Rapid technological development.

(From "Perspectives on Social Welfare" by Paul E. Weinberger.)
2. Dr. Paul Popenoe is quoted by John Drakeford "Games Husbands and Wives Play" as saying this describes our families:

(a) Cult of Playboy assumes the female is to be exploited at will by the male. It leads, therefore, the female to exploit the male in retaliation. "The idea of responsibility gives way to selfish hedonism."

(b) Thrust of richer mass media (than church or school) frequently pictures every male "on the make" & if he isn't, he's a chump.

(c) Popularity of homosexual campaign.

(d) Trial marriages.
1. We haven't made up our minds to marry for keeps.
2. Irvin Cobb, "Marriage used to be a contract; now seems to be regarded as a 90 day option."

(e) Divorce.
1. Bowman clip. #1 Sharp tongue is the only edge tool that grows sharper in use.
2. Delinquent clip. #2
3. Airplane clip. #3 
4. Couple shown getting married--leave J. P., "O darling, our very 1st wedding!"
5. Bedsole quote. #4

Description of Divorced Kids
(f) Women's Lib--attack on marriage, childbirth & family.
(g) Wife swapping games.
(h) Communal enterprises--all the wives are married to all the men & children belong to the group.
(i) Lack of education preparing for marriage--yet marriage licenses easier than car--you are tested for it.

B. Factors peculiar to 1971 arise.

1. It's the spirit of non-involvement.
   (a) We detach ourselves from pleasures of children.
   (b) "How do I play?" Sister Ljams--got a ball--throw it to him, he'll know what to do.
   (c) Sorheim quote.
   (d) Trueblood quote.
   (e) Real estate agent quote.

2. Hazen Werner, "Look at the family now" wrote of 3 conditions.
   (a) Rapid swelling population of youth who know the emotion of unrest--70 million Americans are 18 or under.
   (b) Increased openness in sex & sex education.
   (c) Widening distance between parents & growing persons in regard to fundamentals as moral standards, personal freedom & behavior.
3. Science, our benefactor has no conscience of right or wrong.
   (a) Remember crystal set, telephone & phonograph c handle, water bucket, 3D slides, watching train & make scissors out of nails. 
   (b) Now it's pollution,ënuf water, crime, space, computer, nerve gas.

4. Urbanization--people on the move--nullifies personal identity.
   (a) 2 boys "My grandmother just came back from around the world." "How many orbits."

5. Affluence--all meaning secondary to material. "Wall to wall carpeting will not bring the home together". We try to get out of material what God did not put in it. "Buying groceries is hazardous to your wealth."

6. Absenteeism.
   (a) Mother's gone: Suburban mother delivers kids obstetrically once, career sister;
   (b) Mothers of 6 to 17 yr. old kids employed outside home constitute 48% of total adult female population.
   (d) Daddy moonlighting--weekend daddy.
   (e) Kids--rehearsal, band, Little League, "What junior joiners children have become."
(f) Hard to build a family tradition--not there enuf.

7. Criss-Cross or Double Cross.
   (a) Boys in long hair & beads.
   (b) Girls in boots & pants.
8. Home is immature.
9. Home is goalless.
10. Home is permissive.
    (a) Sad of face letter. #8

IV. There is a Solution!
A. It's worthy of our attention.
   1. Bedsole quote. - So big! #9
   2. Hostetter quote. Crime - #10
B. I believe it's found in the Lord's pattern.
   1. Macartney quote.
      (a) I Sam. 1:3, 7
       1. Went to services.
       2. Took children "and all his house"
       3. Husband loved God.
          I Sam. 1:3 :21
       4. She loved God.
          I Sam. 1:7
       (b) John 1:1 Existed the first order.
       Both spurious by God.
       working in all the comm. Blamless
3. Bible teachings.
   (a) Children are a treasure.
       Matt. 18:10
   (b) Remove stumbling block.
       Matt. 18:6
       1. Clip on Nail up the Hole. #12
       2. Washington speech. #13

C. I offer 7 suggestions in keeping c Bible principles.
   1. Teach good manners. Ann Landers'
      "Every immoral act contains an element
      of bad manners since it disregards the
      rights & feelings of others."
   2. Get back to the high, holy standard.
      (a) Play writers & novelists want to
          destroy it.
      (b) Obscenity is now a public cause.
      (c) Materialism terrible. "The hardest
          thing to hide is something that isn't
          there" -- Eric Hoffer. May have TV
          but no character.
      (d) "Prosperity & not religion seems to be
          the opiate of the people." James
          Reston.
   3. Let the family be together.
      (a) Show interest in what others are
          doing.
(b) Vacations & days off together.
(c) Evening meal kept intact.

4. Let every member count.
   (a) He's valuable.
   (b) His ideas are & he can express a critical dissent.
   (c) Erwin Canham, "It will be great to go to the moon. But earth never invented anything better than coming home—provided home is a center of affection where parents love each other & where children intelligently admire & respect their parents."

5. Make Home Interesting.
   (a) "What did you do when TV broke?"
       Awful! All we could do was talk."
   (b) Don't let it be too labor free.
   (c) Keep it moving—use the phone, alter a schedule, go to a game. "Try complimenting your wife even tho it may frighten her at first." M. Twain
   (d) Need & trust each other.

   (a) Somebody's got to run the show.
       Eph. 6
   (b) Let daddy lead.
   (c) "Don't shoot—we are your children"
       by J. Anthony Lucas.

1. Not disjuncture but continuity.
2. Lots of bridges over generation gap.
3. Doesn't snatch ideas out of the sky but draws it out of matrix in which he was reared.
4. Reflects what he was taught.
5. Children (note title) are extension of parents teaching.

(d) Let him inspire.
1. D. Webster story. #15
2. Black Prince story. #16

(e) Face duty.
1. Dear Lord poem. #17
2. Fliver full. #18
3. The Builders. #19
4. Man created first.
5. Noah got family in ark.
6. God said provide for your own.
7. Clip on Chas. Mansen. #20
8. Paul Harvey. #21

7. Champion Spiritual Values.
(a) We cannot have salvation thru things.
(b) Go back to pray, thanks at meals, devotions. "Man needs more than man can give."
1. Clip on lions.

Prov. 15:29 "The Lord is far from the wicked.
James 5:16 "The effectual ferv. prayer.
(c) Clip on Supt. #22
(d) Clip on florist. #23

V. The family is resilient—it can come back
A. Story of Cracow Trumpeter. #24
FAMILIES IN CRISIS -- WHAT'S THE ANSWER

Broadway Church, Lubbock, Texas 4-23-71
(Family Life Seminar)

First Baptist 4-25-71
John Hornack - Bapt.

Alden Ave., V.B.S. 6-8-71

Portland V.B.S. 6-10-71

Second St., Pulaski V.B.S. Reek of 6-13-71
Too Good To Be True
By BESS A. OLSON
A MAN stood all day on a busy London street holding a tray filled with golden coins. He called to the passersby, “A sovereign for a shilling! Who’ll buy a sovereign for a shilling?”

But no one stopped. People looked at him, heard his offer, but kept on going. Some smiled, some sneered. All either said or thought, “What does he take us for, fools?”

For the salesman’s offer was indeed fantastic—five dollars for twelve cents! Who could believe him?

The next morning, however, consternation and chagrin filled the people who had passed by the tray of golden coins. Pictured on the front pages of newspapers was the man who had made this strange offer. The caption read, “Were you ever fooled?”

The accompanying article told of a bet between the man and a friend. “People are so skeptical, nowadays,” said the friend, “that if you were to stand on the street all day and offer sovereigns for shillings, no one would believe you.” The challenge was taken, the trial made and the point proven. No one had even stopped to investigate the offer!

To the unsaved, God’s offer of salvation also seems fantastic. For in it are included all the things for which men long most—eternal life, eternal riches, love, joy, peace, freedom from sin. For a shilling? No, free! Salvation is a gift from God. “For by grace are ye saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”

God’s servants stand by the highways of life offering the wonderful gift of God, the promise of salvation through believing and receiving His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. If the passerby, rushing on his way to Hell, will but stop and accept this gift, he shall be saved. Fantastic? It is true! Too simple? “The Lord is not . . . willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” So He has made the way so simple that no one need be lost.

Yet how many there are who do not believe! “The preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness.”

As the people of London read the newspaper account, no doubt many of them said, Why didn’t I at least stop to investigate? Oh, if only I had another chance!

The time will come when God’s offer of free salvation will be closed. Death or the Lord’s return will close it. Then it will be too late to accept the offer that has been open for so long. “Behold now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation!”

Won’t you, today, take advantage of the most wonderful offer ever made to Man? Salvation, eternal life, eternal riches, love, joy, peace, freedom from sin—all “without money and without price”! Only believe and receive.
God. "It's impossible to escape the problem of God. When I have the time, I'll work out the formulae to be used on great occasions. We must have something perfect both in thought and in form."
Huber, the great naturalist, tells us that if a single wasp discovers a deposit of honey or food he will return to his nest and impart the good news to his comrades, who will sally forth in great numbers to partake of the fare which has been discovered for them. Shall we who have found honey in the rock, Jesus Christ, be less considerate of our fellow-men than wasps are of their fellow-insects?
Bible: “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.”

The “punch” word in this declaration is the word power—in the Greek dynamos, from which we get the word dynamite.

Imagine the “master race” back in the eighteenth century giving the slaves “the dynamite of God” to keep them tractable and humble. That idea is as preposterous as the scheme of the man who substituted a stick of dynamite for a row of pencils in his vest pocket, saying, “Now I’m all set to greet my friend George. Everytime I meet him he slaps me in the chest and breaks my pencils, and boy, this time he’s going to be surprised!”
Dr. Henry Bowman, who studied divorce for ten years, discovered that in over one-half of all divorces, the couples had married in haste. No mere physical attractiveness or married sex experiences are enough to insure abiding happiness.

Many marriages are broken because the participants were married before they could wisely choose. Dr. James Furboy says, "Studies of divorce and broken marriages all show us that the causes were all present before marriage, and could have been detected."


"How to Build a Happy Home" - By B. Charles Hostetter
A survey of eighteen hundred juvenile delinquents showed that sixty per cent of them came from broken homes. Many of our criminals were born into broken, unhappy or destitute homes. One author says that ninety per cent of our homes are unhappy. So we can expect the fruit of sinning children to come from our unloving and broken marriages.

"How to Build a Happy Home" - By B. Charles Hostetter

Page 55
If one out of every four airplanes crashed, the public would demand a thorough investigation. All planes would be grounded; airlines would go out of business; airplane construction companies would go bankrupt and pilots would quit their jobs. No flying would be allowed unless the trouble was found and corrected and more rigid controls begun.

"How to Build a Happy Home" - By B. Charles Hostetter
Because thousands of children are groping mutely about in a darkened world from broken homes.

1. Their two dearest friends separated and divorced.
2. Tolerated but not wanted by one or both parents in the second-hand home.
4. Drifting without assurance and hope.
5. It is indeed a dark world for children of broken homes and God is not pleased with their lot in life.

"Sermon Outlines on The Family and the Home"

By Adolph Bedsole
Dr. Kristen O. Sorheim, Norwegian Minister of Education, says, "America lives mostly outside the home. All night your streets are crowded with cars. You have a profession known as 'baby sitters'. Even in the house, where sometimes you have to be, you aren't living in it but away. You are listening and looking at something else--you have the radio on in one room, the television on in another. You have roofs, yes, and a fairyland of beautiful and useful things under them--everything that money can buy. But not many of you have what we Norwegians would call homes beneath your roofs. Because homes you have to create out of yourselves, and for that you haven't time."

"Many accidents occur in the kitchen, magazine. I know & eat them & pretend I like them."

"'Mum new perfume,' I like your 'better kitchen perfume.'"
"How to Build a Happy Home" - By B. Charles Hostetter

Page 71
Elton and Pauline Trueblood point up, in a book they have written, some trends in our home life that are shocking. They say, "In spite of the different labels, we are more like the Russians than we realize or choose to admit. In no area of our experience is the developing similarity more disturbing than that of family life. . . . We are doing by neglect much that the Marxists have done by social planning."


"How to Build a Happy Home" - By B. Charles Hostetter

Pages 77-78
Several years ago I read about a real estate salesman who tried to sell a house to a newly married couple. The wife said, "Why buy a home? I was born in a hospital, reared in a boarding school, educated in a college, courted in an automobile, and married in a church. I get my meals at a cafeteria, live in an apartment, spend my mornings playing golf and my afternoons playing bridge; in the evenings we dance or go to the movies; when I am sick I go to the hospital; and when I die I shall be buried from an undertaker's. All we need is a garage with a bedroom."

"How to Build a Happy Home" - By B. Charles Hostetter
MOTHERS—Children

Never before our generation has such a large group of women spent so many hours away from their child. Always before, the poor women had to work in the shops and fields. The rich long ago decided that staying with children all the time was for the birds. Now we have middle-class women with small families and easily kept houses who can put all their effort into driving their children crazy.—DR. ESTELLE RAMSEY, Education Summary, 2-5-71
The Sycamore Chapel Church

"Serving With Churches Of Christ"

Old Clarksville Pike
Ashland City, Tennessee 37015

"Our invitation to all who are weary and need rest; to all who are lonely and want friendship; to all who mourn and need comfort; to all who pray and to all who do not, but ought; to all who sin and need a Saviour; and to whoever will—this church opens wide the door, and says in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, WELCOME!"

Bishops:
D. F. Bess
J. E. Boyte, Jr.
W. G. Frazier, Jr.
Ewell Perry
Daulton Walker

Deacons:
Bruce Binkley (Song Director)
Delma Binkley (Treasurer)

Minister:
Alvin C. Rose, Jr.
746-3313

Assemblies:
Sunday Bible School ........... 9:30
Morning Worship Service .... 10:30
Young Peoples' Class ........ 6:00*
Evening Worship Service .... 6:30*
Wednesday Bible School ..... 7:00*

* One half-hour later, May-October.
To the Editor:

"Sunday's child is full of grace," but today's child is sad of face. The modern child is the most oppressed person in our society. We adults hassle over integration, busing, sex education, and many other problems, and the child somehow gets lost in the shuffle.

He has just about lost the right even to be born. If he is allowed to stay in the womb for nine months, the modern baby is often forced to be born at a time convenient for those concerned. This baby of today cries an unheard cry. He has little or no voice in who will be responsible for his daily needs, because "mother" needs to make her mark in the world. He misses the chance to sleep late, and play in a secure world of his own things in his home because "mommy" must hurry! Toys and things mean little to him. The modern child usually has more than yesterday's child, but he just keeps wanting! But what?

Someone to really listen, to love him with unselfish love, to be content just to be near him. He needs a steady hand to hold, a bosom that's soft and always there. He deserves a feeling of belonging to constant surroundings, and faces, and a chance to "grow" away from the womb rather than being pushed away.

He is constantly pushed! To nursery school, to piano lessons, dancing lessons, voice lessons, baton lessons, charm school, and all the "in" things that will make him a swinger. Adults often fear that he might be a little different, so they see to it he knows the facts about sex before he has the wisdom to cope with his knowledge. He has lost the right to become what he wants in his own good time.

Little children have a natural desire to love and obey God, but this right is often smothered when parents are too busy to teach biblical precepts. Many "now" children are growing up never knowing the love of God because no one fulfilled their right to hear.

I'm glad I was a child 30 years ago, rather than today. I had a "mean" mother and father who beat the daylights out of me, when I was bad, and who seemed to watch me like a hawk. Thank-you, God, that they taught me to love you and gave me a sense of security that I have needed so often in the daily business of living.

MRS. JANE GREER
Rural Route 1
Chapmansboro, Tenn.

(The above "letter to the editor" was printed in the March 29, 1971, "Nashville Tennessean." The writer, a Sycamore member, received three stars for the best letter. Congratulations!)
Lives touched by the coming of a baby.
1. 4,000,000 babies born each year.
2. 8,000,000 parents to these babies.
3. 16,000,000 grandparents to these babies.
4. 8,000,000 brothers and sisters to new babies.
5. 36,000,000 per year concerned with coming of a baby to home (or 1 out of every 5).

"Sermon Outlines on The Family and the Home"

By Adolph Bedsole
And more and more our officers of the law are telling us that the increase of crime is due to the disintegration of the home and family. Many are neglecting their parental duties in order to live in a beautiful house, and they end up with the house but have lost their chances to have a beautiful home and a happy family.

"How to Build a Happy Home" - By B. Charles Hostetter

Page 98
Clarence Macartney has well said, "The laws of God are given for man's good and perfection, and wherever violated they bring their entail of suffering. Prophylactics may save from physical disease; and contraceptives from children; but there is no prophylactic which saves the mind from contamination or the soul from tarnish, and no contraceptive which will prevent the conception of the children of regret, self-despising, and self-degradation."


"How to Build a Happy Home" - By B. Charles Hostetter
A father told his little boy about the lamb that found a hole in the fence and crawled through. It wandered far away. A wolf was trailing the lamb but the shepherd rescued it just in time.

When the story was over the little boy asked his father, "Did they nail up the hole in the fence?"

Let's repair the fences in our homes and families through which many of our children are going astray. To do this we must go back to the Bible and adopt its standards for home and family life. This is the only way to build a happy home and save our children.

"How to Build a Happy Home" - By B. Charles Hostetter

Page 82
George Washington in his farewell address declared, "Let us not indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Regardless of the influence of refined education on minds of particular structure, reason and experience forbids us to expect that national morality can long endure an exclusion of religious principle."


"How to Build a Happy Home" - By B. Charles Hostetter

Page 91
Sins Of The Saints

Part 3 — MEN (Continued)

Due to the meeting here at the church our series was interrupted for two issues, but now we want to resume this study with you. Since we have dealt with some problems of some men who are young-men, we now look at men who are family-heads and adults.

FATHERS: Since the close of World War II, children of the USA have become increasingly unruly and rebellious. The incidence of juvenile delinquency has skyrocketed and the age of offenders has plummeted! In this area, as others, divine principles and counsel abound. Every relationship of the family is considered and each member receives instruction. As the divinely appointed head of the home, the husband and father holds a strategic place. The truth contained in Eph. 6:4 is one of the most important commands to fathers in their relation to their children.

Making mistakes in training the children must have been a problem of the first century, too. We draw this conclusion from Paul’s negative advice in telling fathers what not to do. "Provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

"Provoke" has a good and bad meaning. In Col. 3:21, it means to "stir up". It can be used to cause excitement and stimulation as in 2 Cor. 9:2 and Heb. 10:24. It can be used in a bad sense, as here, in the constant goading, prodding, and needling until their anger is aroused and they rebel.

After this warning and prohibition, Paul looks at the positive side of the father’s responsibility. This "bring up" also means to "nurture or nourish". This word, used only one other time in the entire NT, is concerning a man’s care of his own body: "No man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it" (Eph. 5:29). Obviously the fathers must exercise loving care and supervision as his children develop physically, mentally and spiritually.

This supervision is to specifically be "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord". The word "nurture" here, is translated "chastisement" in other places (see Heb. 12:8). The word means "discipline" or more literally "child training". God is the model parent who properly trains his spiritual children (Heb. 12:1-13).
Chastisement and discipline may involve encouragement and challenge to learn new things and improve abilities. These two words embrace the total activity necessary in developing a child into a mature, Christ-honoring adult.

The word "admonition" may be rendered "instruction" for the original meaning was "a placing to mind". The instruction is specifically to be "of the Lord". For a clear, detailed presentation of this, note what Moses said to parents of Israel in Deut. 6:7. This can only be accomplished by precept combined with example in life. This is pointed out clearly by the statement of Paul, rendered by Phillips: "Follow the footsteps of me your Father" (I Cor. 4:16).

Have you as a father thought this seriously about your children and their development? OR have you considered them a hindrance to you and long for the day they will leave home? The attitude you have could and will go far in determining your eternal destiny.

COVETOUSNESS Men whose work keeps them active in the business or professional world can easily reach the point where they have little or no desire for companionship of children—even his own! Business associates and adult friends seek his time after office hours. He has important papers, books, magazines to read in his few spare moments. He allows work to occupy his mind when he is at home. So, "Don't Disturb Daddy" has been the slogan in many homes. Most of this can be attributed to the fact that the father is the breadwinner. He is mindful of the fact: "If any will not work, neither let him eat" (2 Thess. 3:10). BUT logically, this is only one of many, not the only, admonition to follow. A sober disposition must be tempered by this observation: "Covetousness is idolatry" (Eph. 5:5; Col. 3:5). How many men do you know, even young men, who are irritable, worriers, vexed, filled with a defeatist attitude, plagued with family trouble, in short, broken in mind and body just trying to keep ahead or "catch-up"? It is appealing that men will so live for fifty years or so, and after the futility of it all, lie down to die! All this done, supposedly, to provide for those he loves.... The writer of Proverbs has a sassy morsel for us all to ponder: "Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith" (15:16). Most of us only know how to "add" to our many wants, but few know how to do with "less" thus, bringing ultimate disaster and uselessness to the Lord on our own heads! With this wide range of abuses, the foundation of the home is threatened. Yet, the causes of these abuses fail to see themselves but simply wonderful providers for their families! How much rather would families rather have 'daddy' than the things that daddy gives!!

In thinking of breadwinners, many would fall in three classes. The men never revealing anything about his income, never permitting his wife to have any say in money matters. As a result, many women have no idea how they should buy for the family's present needs and is at a dreadful loss when her husband passes on.

Another father doles out a certain amount each week or month (usually a barely adequate sum) with which she is to provide for the necessities of the home. Surprisingly some men think this a decent and equitable way of running their homes. Their wives are like unsalaried servants. Marriage, is to some, just the acquiring a servant to do the chores cheerfully without any funds available beyond necessary expenses. Then there is a third that spends freely and lavishly on his own pleasures and
emusements, but says he cannot afford recreation money for wife and children. He thinks that because he has earned the money, that he has the exclusive right to it. A conscientious husband knows that his wife has a right to spend as much for her personal pleasure as he does for his. Ideally, marriage is sharing, and this will of necessity involve more than mere money! Read Eph 5:28,29.

FAITHLESS. One thing we have learned as we "progress" in life—-that a man's word is no longer his bond. Indeed masses of legal words and minds are used to say something and mean something else or take what has been said and make it have another meaning. Some men have been talked out of punishment for crimes they freely admit that they committed!

Jesus had envisioned that men, through honest lives, would not be called upon to swear, testify or prove their words to be true, but simply answer: "Yea, yea; nay,nay"(Matt 5:37). But men did not develop that way for Paul had to urge, "Lie not one to another"(Col 3:9). Of the multitudes in Hell, liars will be prominent.(see Rev 2:10).

Many men are willing to "leave" their father and mother, but are not willing to "leave" to his wife as God demands. (See Gen 2:24; Mat.19:10). While many do not commit the overt act, but involve themselves in sin due to their "roving eye". Early in life highschool boys learn to stand at the intersection and mentally undress every girl or woman who passes and even will make lewd comments to friends of volume sufficient to embarrass any decent girl. Did they maybe learn this from "Dad" and his comments while at work or play?

Boys and men sin when looking with desire and lust at women (Matt. 5:27,28). And this if unchecked is not the end, it will develop into the various sex-sins listed in Rom.1; Gal. 5; I Thess. 4:1-6). Love your own wives and let us let marriage be had in honor! (Eph 5:28,29; Heb 13:4)

UNCONCERNED. This sums up the attitude of many and is proved by the large number of fatherless families attending Highland St., as well as other congregations. This is seen in a failure to live a proper life at home, on the job by the countless "dirty-stories" heard and told, by the lives wasted in alcohol and tobacco, by the frequent cursing of men and taking God's holy name in vain. In all this, it is no wonder, that there is not sufficient Christian men to teach Bible classes, preach the Word, become elders and deacons. Few "desire" the office of a bishop (elder) or even come near being qualified due to their ungodly, unconcerned lives!

Yes, I am talking about church members—-so called! The title (I) of Christian, deacons, and elders are merely tags we put on people, in many cases, --not the godly, devoted, Christ-loving men we thrill to read of in the New Testament. God have mercy on us! (Eph 5:1-14, Titus 2:1-10; 2 Tim 2:1,2; Titus 3:1-9).

If all the "religious-thieves" were in jail, our economy would be seriously threatened! A man can rob God. They did it in Malachi's day (3:8,9). Today men look at the take-home-figure to compute how much they were prospered, but that is not accurate and they rob God. Preservers do the same in not considering the house or allotment for social security, meeting money, when they give. The Bible says...as he may prosper...but in God's sight we must all appear as beggerly indeed (I Cor 16:2).
"Let him that stole, steal no more" (Eph 4:28) is best for God and job. How many fathers have stolen from their company's supply chest to provide for themselves and their children pencils, papers, stamps, envelopes, clips, staplers, folders, tools, etc. as you only can describe in detail? Yet, we think Billy Sol Estes as a real scoundrel...why? Is it just because he got caught at it? Wrong is wrong and God will deal fair and just with "little thieves", too!

Do you pray? Would the family think it odd if you returned thanks at a meal? Fathers want their children to take them into their confidence, yet are unwilling to include or ask their Heavenly Father's advice! Seems strange, doesn't it? See I Tim. 2:8; I Thess 5:17; I Tim 4:14,5).

LODGES Shamefully men will expend energy, talents and money into various lodges that even propose to offer salvation, as Freemasonry does! (See Lightfoot's Manual of the Lodge pg. 83,114 and Mackey's Encyclopedia, page 621). But men will always rationalize if they refuse to repent of wrongs. The gospel ONLY is the power of God unto salvation (Rom 1:16) and we as believers are not to compact ourselves with unbelieving, lawless ones (2 Cor 6:14-18). Apart from the name of Jesus Christ, there is NO salvation (Acts 4:12).

FINALLY Respect and honor your position, men, by seriously looking at what you are and what God expects of you! Remember your family! Be content with such things as you have and them in their proper place (Heb. 13:5; Phil 4:11-13)! And above all--LIVE FOR HIM ABOVE, remembering you belong to Him (1 Cor 6:19,20)! I will close this study with this admonition from the beloved Apostle Paul: "And we exhort you, brethren, encourage the fainthearted, support the weak, longsuffering toward all. That none render unto any one evil for evil; but always follow after that which is good, one toward another, and toward all"(I Thess 5:14, 15). WILL YOU do this much? -WCH

(Next Week: ELDERS)

Reputation is what men think we are.... Character is what God sees that we are!

How To Be Saved

Hear the gospel—Rom. 10:17; Jno. 6:45
Believe the gospel—Heb. 11:6; Jno. 8:24
Confess Christ—Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:9
Be Baptized—Mark 16:15, 16; Rom. 6:3-5
The Lord adds to His church—Acts 2:47
Be faithful—Heb. 10:23-26; Gal. 5:16-26

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The "Black Prince", so called because of the color of the armor he wore to set off his fair complexion, was on one occasion so pressed in battle by the French that the Earl of Warwick sent a message to Edward III, his father, beseeching him to send aid. The king asked, "Is my son killed?"

"No sir, please God", the messenger answered.
"Is he wounded?"
"No, sire."
"Is he thrown to the ground?"
"No, sire, not so; but he is very hard pressed."
"Then", said the king, "go back to those who sent you, and tell them I shall send no aid; because I set my heart upon my son proving himself this day a brave knight, and because I am resolved, please God, that the
honor of a great victory shall be his!'

The Black Prince did not disappoint his royal father but fought the more valiantly and, when the king of Bohemia was slain, he took, in remembrance of the victory of that day, the three white ostrich plumes which that king had worn on his crest with his motto "Ich dien, "I serve." The plumes have been worn by every Prince of Wales since that time.

Dear Lord, I do not ask
To give me some high work of Thine,
Some noble calling, or some wondrous task;
Give me a little hand to hold in mine;
Give me a little child to point the way
Along the pleasant path that leads to Thee;
Give me two shining eyes Thy face to see.
I do not ask that I may ever stand
Among the wise, the worthy, or the great;
I only ask that softly, hand in hand,
A child and I may enter at the gate.

--Anonymous

"How to Build a Happy Home" - By B. Charles Hostetter
Page 99
"Now, Grace, don't read the Scriptures wrong. The Bible says, 'Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward. ... Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them.' The Bible doesn't say, 'Happy is the man that hath his flivver full of them.' I guess it does make a difference, but I find that if you have a quiver full of children you finally get a flivver full, too.

"How to Build a Happy Home" - By B. Charles Hostetter

Pages 106-107
PERMISSIVE PARENTHOOD

"If Charles wanted anything, I'd give it to him, he never had to take a fall, not 'till he was a grown man. Everything was just handed to him, I admit."

The foregoing were the words of Charles Manson's mother as she was interviewed lately by the Los Angeles Times. They constitute a sad commentary on the child psychology rage of a few years back which warned: "Don't Inhibit the child!" "Give the child his way; let his personality develop without restraint." etc. etc. It was the age in which many parents let the child dominate the domestic scene with their tantrums, selfishness and destructiveness. They were not seriously taught a regard for others nor were they solemnly punished for a disregard of others. They grew up thinking that they owed the world nothing and the world owed them everything simply because they did not ask to be born. They should have asked: "How can I make the world, with its heartaches and sorrows a better and happier world?" Rather, their philosophy was, "only chumps and dopes put themselves out for others." Charles Manson, now convicted for the multiple slayings laid at his door is the ripe and sickening product of permissive parenthood. No doubt, as in all cases, there were other factors, but this one is made so conspicuous by his mother that all of human society should heed its lesson.
A superintendent of schools said, "The crime wave must be broken on the hearthstone." And a high school principle said, "If young people are on the right track, they were put there in the home."

"How to Build a Happy Home" - By B. Charles Hostetter

Page 98
My father was a florist. For perhaps twenty-five years he delivered his flowers to a neighboring city several times a week. Not too long before Father's death, he and I were traveling together in my car; we were on the road that he had traveled often on his flower deliveries. About two miles from his home we rounded a bend in the road and then he said, "At this turn in the road I always begin a prayer of thanksgiving for another safe trip and for my family." He said, "I don't know when I began doing this, but I started it many years ago."

"How to Build a Happy Home" - By B. Charles Hostetter

Page 113
After an eighteen-year absence, a young woman returned to her Polish homeland. She heard again from the tower of the "Cracow Trumpeter" the notes of "The Hynal", a curious call that was first sounded seven hundred years ago. The young woman explained:

This is in memory of a young boy trumpeter who in the year 1241 sounded the Hynal in alarm when the Tartars began burning the city. An arrow pierced his throat when he was near the end of his song. That is why the last note begins strongly, trembles and then ceases--broken like the young life of the trumpeter. The custom has lasted through the centuries. Even during the German occupation and the Russian oppression, the trumpet sounded every hour of the day and night. To
the Poles, that sharp, clear summons, echoing down through the centuries, is a link with the past and a signal of hope for the future.


"Fire on the Earth" - By Sidney W. Powell - Page 9