

VI. From Chaos to Control

Bowles, Linda. "Speak Your Mind While Still Free To Do So." *Conservative Chronicle*. 24 May, 1995, p. 3.

If crime can be prevented then its prevention originates in the home. If the home is dysfunctional then the society will eventually decline into criminality, implode due to emotional sins among the people, and explode through anarchy, revolt, civil war, or external invasion.

Obviously, this process doesn't happen overnight, it takes three to four generations before the impact of cosmic degeneracy crystallizes into national discipline. All of this has become obvious in our society by the general acceptance of alternate lifestyles, pre-, mid-, post-, and extra-marital sexual liaisons, single-parent homes, absentee fathers, and doctrineless, two-parent homes.

Such dysfunction produces rudderless children whose sinful natures lead them into various forms of rebellion. Such is to be expected from the lower classes, the hoi polloi, and the rabble of any society. But in two recent conversations with Quentin Swafford, Director of Glenhaven Youth Ranch, I have learned that the Ranch has begun receiving more and more children from Christian backgrounds.

Why are children of Christian parents, many of whom are involved in doctrine, becoming candidates for Glenhaven? According to Quentin there are many answers, but I would like to offer one which may shed some light on one part of the problem.

Parents who raise their children in doctrinal churches and who see them express positive volition to the Gospel make an erroneous assumption that their children are positive to doctrine. This may be true for a time. But the peer, social, and cultural pressures which begin to create internal stress in the early teen years become more than they can bear. In order to overcome this threat, parents must begin at the earliest possible age to program their children in the principles of authority orientation.

In the next section of our study, I am going to suggest a system of child training based on the research of J. Richard Fugate, director and founder of the Foundation for Biblical Research.

If Fugate's system is followed faithfully, supported by prayer, unconditional love, and unfailing consistency, then your child may conceivably endure the pressures of this generation. It all depends on how old they are when you start applying this system. The younger, the better.

Before beginning, I must warn you that this is powerful information, all based on passages of Scripture and exegetical research. No parents are perfect and no child is perfect. The intention of this study is to offer assistance to parents who are struggling to raise their children in a crooked, perverted, and contorted Zeitgeist. I am not suggesting that what you are doing now is wrong—each of you must decide that in the light of biblical revelation.

Children must understand that this system is designed by God for parents so that they can raise you in a fair, just, and spiritual manner. The issue for those who do not line up with the information we are about to examine is to orient and adjust. Orient to the principles of the Word of God and then adjust to whatever they require.

If parents choose to follow this system, they are going to have to develop standards. Those standards are going to be imposed on the children by the use of the imperative mood—either the positive or the prohibitive form. In order to be fair, just, and doctrinal, these standards must contain penalty and punishment clauses which you as children must learn to regard as deterrents to incorrect thought, speech, and behavior. It is my prayer that the parents and children of this congregation will benefit from this study so that Jesus Christ might be glorified and God's Word magnified.

Before beginning, I would recommend to each of you, especially to parents, the purchase of Mr. Fugate's book, What the Bible says about Child Training. It may be ordered by calling: Alpha Omega Publishers at 1-800-622- 3070, or by writing:

Alpha Omega Publishers
P. O. Box 3153
Tempe, Arizona 85281-9983

Enclose \$6.95 plus \$4.00 postage.