

March 20, 2022

Viewpoint from the **Valley Grove Church Of Christ**

The Influence Of The Home

By Kent E. Heaton Sr.

“One percent of the child’s time is spent under the influence of the Sunday school; 7 percent under the influence of the public school; 92 percent under the influence of the home.” (Albert S. Taylor)

Consider the amount of time a child watches television and weigh the influence — in the home — in front of the television. The results are staggering no doubt. The kind of adults our children will be is greatly determined by the amount of influence they have in their growing years. The church cannot bring children to Christ with only four hours (or less in many cases) a week no more than someone going to medical school four a week will make them a doctor. By the time they receive their degree in medicine, everything they have learned will be outdated.

The time spent in Bible class is very important! Yet, too many parents believe that time spent in Bible class is all that is needed. We moan that we are losing our young people. People say, “But I brought him to church all his life and now he wants nothing to do with the Lord.” Can it be that the only time the child saw the Lord in his life was in church? The influence of teaching children about God is not accomplished fully in church Bible classes. If a parent is not taking time and opportunity to share the gospel with their children on a daily basis then why question the disposition of the grown child who cares nothing for God?

Parents must instill in their children every day the values established by God’s word. Values of influence are established by the kind of movies we watch, shows we turn on, books we read and magazines we subscribe too.

Parents show their children God by their words and deeds of kindness. Children learn about the gospel when parents emphasize spiritual matters in their lives. The influence of Godly mothers and fathers is found when children are taught to dress modestly. Mothers and fathers are the influence that is first seen by the children and forms the basis of their own lives.

*Visitors — We pray that you benefit spiritually from our
worship together and hope to see you again.*

When Man Loses Respect For Biblical Authority

By Tommy Thornhill

Many years ago, I heard of a preacher who kept sounding the warning, “the ship of Zion is drifting,” He was comparing the Lord’s church with a ship floating on the sea (the world) headed for apostasy. The anchor that had been holding them fast to God has been lost in the sea of confusion and hopelessness, and the ship was being wrecked on the rocks of unbelief, despair, and doubt and was slowly sinking into oblivion. The lives of the people onboard the ship were about to be drowned and lost for eternity. This is the picture the apostle Paul used to describe those who had lost their faith, “*which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck*” 1 Tim. 1:19.

Well, his warnings went unheeded and apostasy came. The Lord’s church was split when people refused to respect Bible authority. I saw this happen during my early years of preaching and several times since. Today, the same warning is being sounded, (maybe not in the same words, but the same principle), but it is ignored by the majority. Many local congregations, composed of members of the church of Christ are like little ships headed for shipwreck because they have lost the anchor of faith in God and His Son, Jesus Christ. These little ships, headed for eternal destruction, are filled with people who “*have a form of godliness but deny its power*” 2 Tim. 3:5. They have made the mistake of choosing to sail on a ship with a crew (leadership) who see no need for using the chart provided by the One who created the “*paths of the sea*” Ps. 8:8, (the way to heaven). His chart (the word of God) can show them how to sail the ship safely to its destination while avoiding the pitfalls and dangers that lay ahead. But the crew showing disdain and a lack of respect for this chart (God’s word) follow their own chart (their own likes, opinions) which will cause them to be shipwrecked and they and their passengers will be lost for eternity.

When people, teachers, preachers lose respect for God’s authority and decide to follow the way of the world they lose their religious conviction. Why? They are more concerned in having the world accept them at the present time, than to be accepted by the Lord. Some of them are not overly concerned about respecting God’s authority. They would rather listen to men. Jesus encountered this problem in Jn. 5 after He healed the lame man. The religious leaders refused to accept His authority. So He says to them “*I have come (am come) in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive*” Jn. 5:43. People many times will listen to a preacher who tells them what they want to hear, rather than listen to one who

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

tells them what they must do. They desire preachers who will not teach and preach on subjects that might expose them to the danger they are in. They want to hear sermons that soothe, rather than save souls. The weakening of biblical and doctrinal teaching has an effect on the religious practices and moral of their audience. Such soft teaching has led many a congregation away from God. The true preacher of God will only *“speak the oracles of God”* 1 Pet. 4:11. He will make sure to *“hold fast the pattern of sound words ... in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus”* 2 Tim. 1:13. He will preach the truth in season and out of season, whether liked or not for he knows only the truth can save Jn. 8:32; 17:17.

Another reason why people lose respect for God’s authority is because they don’t really know what His word says. They fail to study and learn, so they are ignorant of what the word of God teaches. Remember the prophet Hosea? He wrote, *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”* What does God then say? *“Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest to Me ...”* Hos. 4:6. A thought! In the NT all Christians are priests. *“You also, as living stones are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood ...”* 1 Pet. 2:5. In thinking of Hosea’s statement, will not God reject the NT priests who fail to learn His word?

This lack of knowledge is destroying God’s people today. Talk with fellow Christians, ask them why they believe what they believe. They should be able to give a reasonable answer. We are taught to *“... always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear”* 1 Pet. 3:15. But much too often when asked, they might say they believe in God, Christ, the Bible, but they say it with little conviction. They have a lack of understanding of what they really believe and that is why they are easily led to get on the ship destined for destruction because it is guided by the wrong crew as mentioned above.

A lot of Christians have one foot in the Lord’s church and one foot in the world. They have never completely separated themselves from the world. They feel the pressure of the world around them to conform, so they want to bend and shape any teaching into something that’s popular, to fit the thinking of what society has decided spirituality ought to be. Never mind what God has to say about it. We wonder why so many young people fall away from the faith. It is because the generation that should have taught them has failed, not only to instill the truth into them, but also to practice before them what they claim to believe. When young people see little evidence of personal conviction and commitment in the lives of their parents, and sometimes their Bible teachers and preachers, they copy their peers. Because of this lack of proper guidance when growing up, many of them, after (but some before), reaching adulthood put Jesus on the shelf.

“Our laws and our institutions must necessarily be based upon the teachings of the Redeemer of Mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise; and in this sense and to this extent, our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian.” — *US Supreme Court 1892*

“It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and to humbly implore His protection and favor.” — *George Washington 1789*

“Our government rests on religion. It is from that source that we derive our reverence for truth and justice, for equality and liberty, and for the rights of mankind. Unless the people believe in these principles, they cannot believe in our government.” — *Calvin Coolidge*

Reading Scripture makes one healthy, wealthy, and wise. Watching television makes one lazy, crazy, and full of lies.

Satan is a fisherman too. Deceit is his bait. Suckers get caught.

The Bible:

*Read it,
Believe it,
Obey it!*



March Birthdays: The 18th Amy Hisaw; The 25th Megan Morgan.

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Sunday

Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.

Worship 10:30 A.M.

Worship 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

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