

Some thoughts on values
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7.10.07

Hey parents. I was just reminiscing about the missions trip that the student ministries department just took to Peru and thinking specifically about something that we told many of the schools before we entered them to hand out the book of hope to the students.

We would speak with the principals and ask them if we could give a presentation about good values to their students and then hand out the books. Without fail, the schools would accept us with open arms, welcoming someone offering to give them a glimpse of hope where there often is none.

Upon remembering this, I started to think about the people knocking on the doors of our schools here in the U.S. and asking to speak to and shape the values of our children. I recalled a specific incident that happened in Boulder Colorado in a high school there last May.

At a mandatory school assembly at Boulder High, a clinical psychologist named Joel Becker began to tell students how they should live their lives.

“I’m going to encourage you to have sex, and I’m going to encourage you to use drugs appropriately. I don’t care if it’s with men and men, women and women, men and women, whatever combination you would like to put together.” - Joel Becker -

These were some of the words uttered that day in that school assembly. Now, I’m sure that for most of us, a statement like this is appalling and somewhat unbelievable. I am also aware that this is somewhat of an extreme example of the absolute godless teachings that are circulating throughout our public school systems; however, information like this should trigger something in us as Christians and parents aside from disgust.

When I read or hear about something like this, it immediately makes me think about what I have been teaching teenagers through my interactions with them. Many people wave the flag of complaint letters and protests when bogus information is communicated through our schools (which is sometimes needed) but it would be far more beneficial for all of us to examine closely what we are teaching our kids from the start.

When I was in high school, I remember countless speakers coming through our gym for all school assemblies and giving us their opinions on values, political agendas and life in general. I don’t ever particularly remember one of those assemblies as changing my views on life because with all the information that was coming in, I was always weighing it against what my parents had taught me growing up. I always had to ask myself, “does this line up with what I know to be true in the Bible and what my parents have taught me?” I had something to fall back on as a core of beliefs because someone had been engraining the right things into me since I could crawl.

We live in a world where the enemy will try to ruin the life of our young people at every turn that he has. The sad reality is that this happens often through interactions at school. This doesn't mean that we have to shelter our children from every outside factor but it does mean that parents have a serious responsibility to be the primary givers of values to their children.

Let me encourage you to be very proactive in doing this. **Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it."** This scripture is not just a casual saying for church parenting. It is crucial for a child to have a fighting chance in a world that will consume them if left unguarded and untaught.

Yes, the church is in place to assist in the raising of the family. Yes, there are good teachers out there that will teach them something good. Yes, this youth ministry is committed to teaching biblical values to this generation.

All these things considered, however, the responsibility weighs most heavily on the parents to spend time with, invest in and teach their children how to live. There are a lot of ways to do this. Here are some practical ideas that I have observed in good parenting:

1. Do devotions with your family
2. Let your kids see you reading your bible and praying
3. When you ask how their day at school was, use that conversation as a values teacher based on their answers
4. When tough topics come up through TV and movies, take the opportunity to teach a lesson in that moment
5. Point back to what the Bible says as much as you can
6. Go to church with them
7. Live the values you pass on to them

I hope that this resource becomes a help to you. I will be writing about one a month and publishing them on this website. Know that we are praying for you as a student ministries department and hoping to be a part of the family team with you. We are excited to be a part of shaping the hearts and minds of the incredible young people of this generation. God bless.

Committed to Serve,

Matt Blankenship
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