

FEARING FOR OUR KIDS AND GRANDKIDS

Dear Friends:

We have been in a sermon series about fear for a couple of weeks and will continue until Advent. The Bible is filled with perhaps a hundred or more incidences of people facing great challenges but God always comes through and delivers them from certain calamity when they trust him. There are legitimate fears in life; fear of letting your children play in traffic, fear of jumping off a bridge onto the freeway, fear of touching a hot burner on the stove. It would be very dangerous not to have reasonable fears. I want to address a reasonable fear in today's In Touch. The fear of today's cultural influence and pressure on our kids and grandkids. We must be aware of and train our kids and grandkids to stand-up for themselves and refuse to conform to pressures that are contradictory to the Bible. Some of the cultural influences include: pressure by the government, media, schools and friends to place conformity to the culture above conformity to God's instructions for our life. American society has so abandon basic Biblical values that in several cases what is Biblically wrong has become culturally right. That is nothing new but the culture has become increasingly hostile and shaming towards those who hold Biblical beliefs.

Where can we turn in the Bible to learn how to teach our kids and grandkids to stand-up for what is Biblically right when there is a clash with cultural values? The book of Daniel is perhaps the best lesson about how to conform to God's standards in a godless culture. The context of the scripture is in or near the year 586 BC. The prophet Daniel and 3 friends were taken to Babylon to be trained in Babylonian culture and to incorporate the historical, academic, religious and political practices into their lives. Daniel and his friends rejected the kings effort, how they did that is found in Daniel 1:1-16. In verse 7 we read that the king gave the 4 men new Babylonian names. In doing this he gave them a new identity. The problem is: their new names reflected gods of Babylon. The king called them by their new names but the men stuck with their birth names, names that identified them with the true God. A second effort to "culturalize" the 4 Jewish men was to change their diet from Kosher to non-Kosher. The king attempted to give them an appetite for Babylonian tastes. The men refused this, they wanted no appetite for the things of Babylon.

Two quick lessons we learn today: be sure that your kids and grandkids identify with the true God of the Bible. Also, give them a steady diet of God's Word, God's ways, and God's will for their life. If you don't, the culture will give them a steady diet of things that will not be spiritually or mentally healthy for them. It will not grow easier for our kids and grandkids to live a Godly life. But....it is your responsibility to teach them in the way they should go. Teach them to be discerning as they walk through life and face a culture that WILL NOT want them to follow the ways of God.

In Christ Love, Pastor Mike

Events: Women's Ministry Blanket Project for Foster Children continues until December 16th.
Make a blanket or donate \$10 per blanket you would like to have someone make!

Prayer Requests: Araron Slone (17 yr. old, heart transplant), Sandra Stribick (cancer), Kidnapped Missionaries in Haiti (17 people, 5 are kids, youngest is 8 months old)