

# **Let The Bible Speak, Series**

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## **Guarding Our Young People**

Good morning and welcome to Let The bible Speak. Today we want to talk to you about one of the most important of all subjects: Our young people.

There is no component of the Lord's church greater than our young people.

They are truly the church of tomorrow. Without them, we run the risk, and the bleak prospect of extinction.

It is a sobering thought to realize that it takes only one untaught generation for the church to suffer irreparable loss, while beginning a journey that inevitably leads downhill all the way. It may also be true that there is no one in the church at greater risk than these very ones upon whom so much depends. They are not safe from themselves, from inexperience, susceptibility to wrong impressions, youthful lusts, love of pleasure, excitement, name for fame, impatience of control, self-confidence, presumption, and false friends. After David reached the height of the glory of his power, he fell on evil days, suffering much anxiety and remorse. He fell into sin and suffered the inevitable consequences that always follow such actions. He lived to see many dark days and later in life lamented "My sin is ever before me." Psalms 51:3 In later years his children committed horrible sins, reminding him of his own waywardness and transgressions. Absalom his own son mounted a rebellion against his father, the king, just as David had rebelled against God. Joab, in the heat of battle, thrust three darts through the heart of Absalom killing him. When messengers brought news of the battle, the only question asked by this anxious father was "Is the young man Absalom safe? That same question is asked repeatedly today by anxious parents all over the land. All parents know that there are enough "sin traps" in the "far country" to destroy any young boy or girl. The world is filled with evil. It lurks around every corner, from behind every supposed pleasure, filling our society with enough sin to destroy every young person in the world. No wonder John warned: "Love not the world, neither the things in the world, for all that is in the world...." 1 John 2:15-17 We want to talk to you today about how we can protect our youth.

### **Young People Need To Be Guarded And Protected From The Lust of The Flesh, The Lust of The Eye and The Pride of Life.**

Lust i.e. unlawful evil desires that destroy character, reputation, body and soul.

James 1:13-15 "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God..."

What are some of the things that cause a young person to "be drawn away by their own lust?"

#### **A. A Desire To Be Popular.**

1. In an attempt to be popular, some young people dress in ways, that invite disaster. The scriptures teach that Christians must dress modestly.

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with

shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."

What would you say, If I demanded the following of all young people who visited my house?"

1. Clothing must not be excessively tight, see through or revealing.
2. Clothing must not be gang related or camouflaged, must not have racial slurs, inflammatory language, or inappropriate language.
3. Skirts, dresses and shorts must be no shorter than two inches above the top of the knee, no wrap around skirts or dresses will be permitted. Slits in dresses or skirts more than two inches above the knee are not permitted.
4. Shirts, blouses, dress tops must cover the shoulders, chest--no cleavage, stomach-no midriff, and back, armholes of sleeveless tops cannot be open under the arm, tank tops, strapless tops, spaghetti straps, etc will not be permitted.
5. Appropriate undergarments must be worn.

(This was handed to me as I entered a prison waiting area)

The fig leaf loin cloths that Adam and Eve wore did not satisfy God.

When they left the garden, he made them "coats of skin" so they would no longer be naked. Gen.3:21

Wilson's word studies says the word "coats" is a reference to "a tunic worn next to the skin...generally with sleeves, to the knees." (Covered the shoulders to the knees)

In Ex.28:24 God is giving instructions to the priests. These include what they were to wear.v. 40 they were required to wear coats, girdles, and bonnets. V.43 "and thou shalt make them linen breeches to cover their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach." (the thigh had to be covered to avoid nakedness)

Note that if the thighs were not covered, they would be considered naked.

It would appear from what God told Adam and Eve and the priests that they were to wear garments that reached from the shoulders to the knees.

Why would a prison care about people dressing in a fashion to cover their shoulders to their knees? Obviously they know the danger that occurs when people expose their bodies to the view of others. Garments too tight, too revealing are not modest. They should not be worn by Christian women or men. Our young people are at risk when they wear such clothing. Recently ABC News ran a program highlighting the modern dress of young people today. The current craze of baring the stomach was referred to as "hooker wear" and the question was asked "Soon there'll be nothing for prostitutes to wear."

Young people must guard the way they dress and in so doing they guard the faith. To fail to do so, means they do not exhibit "shamefacedness and sobriety." They do not profess godliness.

2. In an attempt to be popular, young people are often lured into actions that result in evil habits being formed. Such things as smoking, drinking, pornography and drugs to name just a few. Popular smoking adds, with the guarantee that with each puff one will become more popular and socially acceptable are deceptive and fail to tell the whole truth.

Smoking is responsible for 85% of all lung cancer deaths, 30-40 % of deaths from diseases of the heart and blood vessels, and 89-90% of deaths from chronic obstructive

pulmonary disease. It is estimated that cigarette smoking is annually responsible for 20% of all American deaths (400,000). That is preventable. A Reader's Digest article stated that some 85 million Americans drink alcoholic beverages. About 79% of all men and 69% of all women imbibe booze. Approximately one out of 18 was classified as alcoholic. Another 4 to 5 million were heavy drinkers with serious personal and work related problems, and about 75 million were simply social drinkers.

In a recent year in Texas there was enough canned beer drunk to tower one hundred eighty four miles into the air, if placed on top of each other. Our young people need to be taught the danger drinking and drunkenness. Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, we are to glorify God in our body and spirit. 1Cor.6:19-20 Eph.5:18 "And be not drunk with wine wherein is excess. "Wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging, whoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

#### **B. Immorality, A Major Cause For The Failure of Many Young People.**

When young, many have difficulty "directing their own steps."

For this reason, the utmost care must be exercised in keeping our young people safe from immoral conduct. It is the duty of parents to guard vigilantly the lives of their young, until the time when they can, with soberness, shape properly their own destinies.

"Train up a child in the way he should go..." Young people often do things without counting the cost. They fail to weigh the consequences before they act.

If you leave the mind of a young person alone and without training in this world, it will soon be occupied and crowded with the wrong ideas. One night of sinful pleasure often results in a lifetime of heartache and woe. There are many sources from which they may receive the wrong kind of training. The press, radio, TV, movies. etc.

From these, they may receive wrong impressions regarding morality, and marriage that run counter to the Christian ideal. The world encourages "living together without the benefit of marriage" "relationships before and outside of marriage" "children out of wedlock" "divorce and remarriage for any cause" Unwholesome recreation awaits around every corner. Young people must be taught to keep their bodies for that relationship that God recognizes and approves. No one is ever better for tasting the poison of sin.

Dissipation will coarsen, not sweeten your life.

A destroyed character is hard to rebuild. "NO" may well be the most important word a young person learns. "Keep thyself pure" 1Tim.5:22 Works of flesh Gal. 5:19

Live so that no man can despise thy youth 1Tim.4:12 Every sexual relationship before or outside of marriage is wrong. The fornicator "shall not inherit the kingdom of God." 1Cor.6:9

#### **C. Gambling. Our nation is fast becoming a nation of gamblers.**

Young people are often the target of those who would ensnare them in this vice.

This sin results in ruined lives, families, and businesses, in bankruptcies and bad loans, in suicides, embezzlements and other crimes committed to feed or cover up gambling habits. Gambling is playing a game as well as staking or risking of money to be lost or won on the outcome. The U.S. postal service states that a lottery always has three factors, (1) a consideration contributed by the participant, (2) the element of chance in the selection of winners, and (3) a prize. In gambling we violate the biblical principles regarding: **attitude**

Mt.7:12, **affection** (loving God--seving two masters Mt.6:24,) **acquisiton, and avrice**, i.e. love of money "a heart they have exercised with covetous practices." 2Pet.2:14

## II. How Parents May Guard Their Children.

Gen.42:22 "And Reuben answered them, saying, "did I not speak to you, saying do not sin against the boy" and you would not listen? Therefore behold, his blood is now required of us."

### A. By Loving Them.

Tit.2:4 "Admonish young women to love their children..."

As in our relationship to Christ, so it is in the parental relationship, genuine love will motivate and cause a parent to fulfill any responsibility, go to any limit, make any sacrifice, bear any burden and exercise any discipline.

### B. By Disciplining Them.

1Sam. 3:13 re Eli "For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain (rebuke) them." Discipline is one of the fundamental laws of growth. Without it, children become laws unto themselves. Prov.13:24 "He who spares his rod hates his child, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly." Prov. 19:18 "Chasten your child while there is hope..." Prov. 23:13 "Do not withhold correction from a child." Prov. 29:15 "...a child left to himself brings shame to his mother."

### C. By Setting The Proper Example For Them.

Children are great imitators, and usually imitate those dearest to them.

One little fellow, following his father in the street, assured his father that he was all right. He said "Daddy, I am stepping right in your tracks." Some parents, unfortunately, encourage their children in doing those things that are detrimental to soul growth and development. Society calls, making her demands, and the young man is encouraged in a direction that puts them one step higher on the ladder of social acceptability, taking them farther away from God and the church. Precept may point the way, but it is silent continuous example conveyed through action, that impresses youth most.

The young person is not safe, if we put the church second. If we allow things to come between us and our duty to God. If we are too busy to serve the Lord. If our life is a sham, one of hypocrisy.

### D. By Giving Them Proper Spiritual Nourishment.

Read Deut. 6:4-9

In providing spiritual nourishment, parents will teach their children the basics of character (honesty, thrift, kindness, etc.) as well as indelibly writing upon the tablets of their hearts guidelines by which they can choose their companions, recreation, occupations etc.

Parents have the job of helping their children select their associates, their literature, their activities etc. and everything else that tends to mold them into what they will be in life.

### D. By Encouraging Them In Doing Those Things That Are Right.

1Sam.1:27-28 "For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. Therefore I also have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord. So they worshipped the Lord there." Never reason: "I don't believe in prejudicing my child, I believe in letting him make up his own mind." How foolish.

(bathing, eating etc.) We need to encourage our children in those things that are right (i.e. obeying the gospel, going to church services etc.) and discourage them in that which is wrong. If our children are worth anything at all, surely they are worth guarding.

What a horrible price we will all pay, if we fail to do so have you with us. If you would like a free copy of this sermon just write to me at the address you will see on your screen in just a moment and I will get it right out to you. Remember to ask for the sermon on young people. It has been good to have you with us today and we look forward to seeing you again next time, until then, may God bless you everyone.