

## CHILDREN ARE A BLESSING OF THE LORD.



Garbage in Garbage Out

Garbage in Garbage out is truer today than whenever it came into being as a popular saying. If our minds are filled with Garbage what do we expect will come out of our mouths and for that matter what will our lives exemplify. Our children are exposed to garbage on T.V. movies, radio, the music media, and various sources, all of which have been found to be easy targets of American Christians. We criticize the news media, and programs, government, and anything outside the family that influences our children negatively. But there is nothing so foul as a family, who through neglect of their children's moral upbringing, abandons the wisdom of the scriptures that parents are "to train our children in the way they should go, and that when they grow they will not depart from it." The reason for this neglect can vary, but the core problem rest in the hearts of the parents. Dissatisfaction with their own lot in life, personal sickness, financial problems, divorce, selfishness taught by the parents putting their need for enjoyment above their children are some of the odoriferous heaps of trash that leave their children to spoil on the vine of humanity. When a child is exposed to the trash of the world and then trash at home, too often the outcome is a confused, ill mannered, rebellious, and a morally neutered child, who no longer has a sense of right and wrong, but emulates the self centeredness behavior of the parent, unless intervention comes their way.

### Neglect of a child's moral character is abuse!



Protect the innocent

Child abuse is usually defined as physical and psychological damage caused by an abusive parent or guardian. Neglect of a child's moral upbringing is an abuse that leaves the innocent child to make their future judgments of right and wrong on the examples they see every day from their parents. Exposure to immorality, spousal abuse, drugs, alcohol, and scamming of government programs, just because a parent can get money from the government instead of working, teach the child to be an amoral person. An amoral person makes no division between right and wrong, truth and a lie, because they have learned from their parents, that life decisions lay outside of conscience or any moral code.

I am not negative about, or have lost hope in our youth, but I am very negative about parents who having brought children into this world & think that that's is the end of their responsibility. Many parents leave the children to the elements of raw evil waiting for the opportunity to strike them, and risk the lives of their children and future generations by not giving the attention children desperately need. Children need direction, correction, and encouragement along with the protection. Even a mother hen instinctively protects her chicks.

### Winning instead of losing the battles!



Winning is in the heart!

So you think you have it bad? Take a look at this man to the left. No legs, one arm and a life in a wheelchair. Everything about him says he can't with one big exception. HIM! He said I can, does, and continues to use what he has been given in life to the fullest of his abilities. Champions are made in the heart and are not limited by their physical ability or lack of it. The champion Lance Armstrong had brain, lung, and testicular cancer at one time. and overcame these hurdles to win another Tour De France cycling race. What would you do if you had the afflictions of either Lance Armstrong or the man pictured to the left? What do you think these two men would teach their children? I think that their own suffering would teach their children to remain positive, have faith, and press on despite their difficulties. I do not know the spiritual condition of either of these men, but what I do see in them is what should be in every Christians' heart and life, and that is I will overcome any obstacles and live the way God wants me to. I will not give up but I will press on for the high the calling in Christ Jesus. I will teach my children that trouble comes and troubles go, but God and His Word abide forever.

We should look to the heroes of our faith and the type of hero pictured here and fight the good fight of faith. We need to teach our children the way they should go so that when they grow old they will not depart from it. We should be sure they get weekly spiritual food on Sundays and not just once in awhile. Everyone wants a great children church and a great adult church, but faithfulness in attendance and support are key ingredients for the life and impact of a Church.

Children like to ask why a lot, and this is good, but let's be sure we have the right answers. Evangelism starts in our homes. Ask a child, old enough to understand what you are asking, "are you going to go to heaven someday?" And then ask them why? If they do not have the answer and the reason, ask yourself who is to blame. It is so easy to point a finger at the Church or to make excuses, but once again the Church cannot teach children who are not there are Sundays', no more than they can be responsible for an adult who does not have the answer or the reason to why they think they are going to heaven if they have neglected the assembly of Christians and have closed their ears to the teaching and preaching of the Gospel. The health of any Church begins in the home, and is carried over to the Body of Christ.

Children should be taught to exercise their faith each and every day. We need to avoid exposing them to garbage in the examples of how we live if it is contradictory to God's plan for us. It takes sacrifice for good parents to raise good children, but then the outcome of Christian child rearing produces a new generation of faith and not selfishness. If you are feeling sorry for yourself, stop it, and get busy with God. Protect, train, and watch over your soul and the souls of your children. God cc

Ephesians 5:1-5 "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."