

Juvenile Delinquency

(Proverbs 1:10-19)

- Introduction:
1. The Proverb writer warned young men to avoid walking in paths which lead to harm.
 2. Today, we are disturbed at the direction many of our youth have chosen.
 3. In one sense, times seem to be worse than ever before, but Solomon said, "There is nothing new under the Sun" (Ecc. 1:10).
 4. "Today's youth love luxury and have bad manners. They hold authority in contempt; they no longer stand up when an adult enters the room; they talk back to parents and contradict them; they talk too much in the presence of company; they talk nonsense instead of working; they put themselves all over the furniture; and they guzzle their food" (Socrates, 500 B.C., Athens, Greece).
 5. Many juvenile delinquents are the direct result of adult delinquents who have not fulfilled their obligation toward them (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Eph. 6:4).
 6. Let's examine some reasons for juvenile delinquents.

I. Not All Good People Are Good Parents

- A. I don't like that answer, but it is true.
- B. Children do not inherit the unrighteousness nor the righteousness of their parents (Ezekiel 18:20).
- C. Children come into this world morally pure and it is through the process of choices that they become defiled.
- D. It is a parent's responsibility to assist their children in the decision making process.
- E. Examples of good people who were not good parents.
 1. Eli (1 Samuel 3:13; 2:22-24).
 - A. Failed to restrain his son.
 - B. Came to his senses when it was too late.
 2. David
 - a. A son rapes and defiles one of his daughters (2 Sam. 13:1-20).
 - b. In response another son murders the brother who raped his sister (2 Samuel 13:21-36).
 - c. A son eventually rebels against his father (2 Samuel 15:7-12).
- F. Example of dying father and letters written to his son.

II Children Can Be And Are Adversely Influenced By The World

- A. (1 Corinthians 15:33).
- B. Don't deceive yourself into thinking, "My son or daughter would never..."
- C. (2 Corinthians 6:14).
- D. Examples of good men adversely influenced by the world.
 1. Barnabas.
 - A. (Acts 4:36) named Joseph - nicknamed Barnabas.
 - B. (Acts 11:24) Sent to Antioch - he was a good man.
 - C. (Galatians 2:11-13) Led away, by another good man.

2. Demas.
 - a. (Colossians 4:14) Salutes the brethren.
 - b. (Philemon 24) Fellow Worker.
 - c. (2 Timothy 4:10) Demas has forsaken me.
- D. How to help your children deal with adverse influences.
 1. Be aware of what's out there (Ephesians 6:11).
 2. Be aware of who your children's friends are.
 3. Be strong when they are weak.
 4. Set an example before them (Matthew 5:16; Galatians 2:20).

III Because Children Have Freedom Of Choice

- B. (Proverbs 23:6).
- C. Righteousness is ultimately the choice of each individual.
- D. We all wish we could sometimes make choices for our children, but we know we can't.
- E. (Revelation 22:17).

- Conclusion:
1. Every parent has been entrusted with an eternal soul, which is destined for an eternal destiny – Heaven or Hell.
 2. To a degree larger than we may have realized, our child's eternal destiny depends on what kind of parents we choose to be.
 3. Ills. — Adult Delinquent Poem.

We read it in the papers and hear it on the air
 Of killing and stealing and crime everywhere.
 We sigh and we say as we notice the trend,
 "This young generation...where will it end?"
 But can we be sure that it's their fault alone?
 Are we less guilty, who place in their way,
 Too many things that lead them astray?

Too much money, too much idle time;
 Too many movies of passion and crime.
 Too many books not fit to be read,
 Too much evil in what they hear said.
 Too many children encouraged to roam,
 Too many parents who won't stay home.

Kids don't make the movies, they don't write the books.
 They don't paint the pictures of gangsters and crooks.
 They don't make the liquor, they don't run the bars,
 They don't change the laws, they don't make the cars.

They don't make the drugs that muddle the brain;
 That's all done by older folks...eager for gain.
 Delinquent teenagers, oh how we condemn,
 The sins of the nation and blame it on them.

Instead of placing blame, let's fix the cause,
 And remember as we pause;
 That in so many cases – it's sad but it's true –
 The title "Delinquent" fits older folks too.