

Subject: Article: Parental Concern
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WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR OUR CHILDREN?

Over the ages and certainly now, parents have asked the question posed by the title as the world in general, including our nation, increasingly spins out of control. Decades ago the question was related more to the rapid modernizing and changing of society. Today the breakdown of family structure, and the precipitous decline in morals has increased the concerns. Then also burgeoning technological advances, for better or for worse, are dominating our lives. However, technology is not the culprit or the cause of our deteriorating society. The problem lies within the corrupt hearts and minds of those who abuse it. It is called sin!

The public defense and promotion of immorality from the highest level of society and government is destructive. Freedom of speech and right to exercise conscience in speech and practice is increasingly being denied today-- the so-called cancel culture. "Our freedoms are vanishing. If you do not get active to take a stand now against all that is wrong while we still can, then maybe one of your children may elect to do so in the future, when it will be far more (sic) riskier — and much, much harder" (Source unidentified). On the other hand, exercise of freedom without responsibility is common. Christianity is facing attacks, not unexpected in a world in which the Lord God and His Word are rejected. Churches that cater to the whims of society contribute to the concern as God's truth is compromised in the name of love, diversity, and search for relevance. With no respect for the Lord, or the consequence of disobedience in time or eternity, the exercise of one's civic rights has become license and excuse to do as one chooses. Christian parents ask, "What difficulty, threat, evil, intimidation, pressure, moral decay, emotional or physical discomfort, and loss of freedom will confront our children so long as the world stands? How free will they be to publicly worship their Lord and confess their faith in public? What will be the circumstances as "perilous times will come" (2 Timothy 3:1)?

In our decadent society is a boy a boy (male) and a girl a girl (female)? Is it wrong to be wealthy? Is one a "racist" based purely on the color of his or her skin? Is having an opinion different than the majority sexist, wrong, discriminatory, simply because it is different? Is there still sin in the world or is it simply a right of self-expression?

Socialist and communist countries program youth in the schools. To them God and faith are an aberration and considered a threat to the state. Parents who pay attention know such indoctrination is now infiltrating the public educational system in our country from elementary through higher education. **Concerned parents should consider getting children out of the public educational system in which impressionable minds are being programmed to conform to the corruption and whims of society. Use your Christian Day School. Start one. Home school.**

Our societal and political culture have adopted an "anything goes" mentality. Within our culture there is a deaf ear to Scripture which says, "You shall not at all do as we are doing here today — every man doing what is right in his own eyes" (Deuteronomy 12:8). Education is being dumbed down. There is more social engineering and indoctrination in our public system than there is education. For example: It is publicly reported that new education standards have been proposed in the State of Minnesota that will eliminate classes on the Holocaust, and American history and replace them with class work on gay, trans, and racism subjects. The Illinois School Board of Education encourages all schools across the state to adopt a new, pro-LGBTQ+ curriculum that emphasizes use of more gender-neutral terms. The Illinois State Board of Education is proposing a rule that would force teachers to promise they would "embrace and promote" "progressive" views starting in October 2021. **If one has access to a Christian high school as we do—Immanuel Lutheran High School and College-- use it!**

In New York City, a math education professor said the "notion" that $2+2=4$, "reeks of white supremacist patriarchy." A teachers' guide says, "We see white supremacy culture show up in the mathematics classroom even as we carry out our professional responsibilities." On the language side a different source, Rutgers University, recently concluded that speaking and writing English correctly is racist (Source *WORLDNETDAILY*, March 21, 2021; multiple sources). The California Department of Education has proposed a "model curriculum" that includes chanting the names of Aztec gods in an attempt to build unity among schoolchildren.

Concerned about the future of your children? Parents, preparing them for it begins with you. Speak out! Petition. Be involved. Set an example of godly exercise of faith. Avoid evil; pursue good. **Entreat the Lord in prayer.** Jeremiah said to the exiles in Babylon, "Thus says the Lord, 'Seek the peace of the city (Babylon) where I have caused you to be carried away captive and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace'" (Jeremiah 29:7). Be awake and vigilant in heeding the advice of the Spirit through the apostle Paul. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:11-13). Hold fast the faithful Word. Cloth your children in the armor of God through immersion in the Word of God. Openly and boldly confess the faith. Share with them the joy of the Gospel and the hope of heaven.

Therefore, pray that pastors and teachers will remain faithful to the inspired Word of God, preaching Law and Gospel — repentance and remission of sins. "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). In truth, nations and the church are blessed only by the good grace of God Who is the ultimate judge and Savior of both. Pray that your church remains true to the inspired Scriptures in word and practice.

How does all this address the question "What Does the Future Hold for Our Children?" We cannot tell the future. We do not know what they will face in society when we are gone. Will they who contend for truth and faithfully declare the will of God and the Gospel suffer pain and stress, intimidation and perhaps imprisonment as well anguish and perhaps death at the hands of evil men and nations? Furthermore, as chilling as it is to ask the question, will there be a church in the land where the voice of God is still heard, and not the opinions of men? Again, what can we do?

Engage in fervent prayer that the Lord will bear them through the evil days! Instill in children now the Word that by the Spirit they may grow in faith to bear whatever is cast at them as citizens in the civic sense or as Christ-believers. Help them to know that whatever comes, as they focus on Christ, and stand steadfast in the faith, bearing the suffering, burdens, discomfort, and fears that “are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18).

Yes, direct their attention to where lies their real future! Be honest with them about sin, and the devil’s walking about. Above all, declare to them the faithfulness of the Lord God, and the love of the Lord Jesus Christ Who resisted evil even unto death on the cross, so that they might bask in the joy of forgiveness, and the certainty of eternal life in heaven.

Raise them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Faithfully lead them into the Word through which the Spirit works discernment between good and evil; by your life in word and deed, set them an example of godliness; confirm to them from the Word that their God is Immanuel – God with us -- and that He promises never to leave nor forsake those who call upon Him. Teach them, “It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man” (Psalm 118:8). Show them that the Heavenly Father who delivered Israel from Egypt and heard their prayers in the wilderness is also the God Who will attend them. “He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear or be dismayed” (Deuteronomy 31:8). Though their flesh and heart may tremble in adversity, as they know as God is their Refuge and Strength (Psalm 46), they can say, “God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever” (Psalm 73:26).

We will have done for our children the best we can do in face of the unknowns that lie ahead as they travel through this godless and dying world if we have faithfully nourished them through the Word to believe, and say, “Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You” (Psalm 56:3), because “The Lord is my Helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me”(Hebrews 13:6)? We cannot remove all fear, pain, and unrest of what may lie ahead. What we can do and are beholden to do by the Lord is to equip our children now with the armor of defense, the shield of faith, and with “ the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God,” (Ephesians 6:17).

Parents, if you are serious about the question **What Does the Future Hold for Our Children?** give your children something to believe, and through the Word assure them they have a future as they cling to their Savior. “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. **You shall teach them diligently to your children** and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

Build them up in the Lord and His promises. Establish them upon the foundation of the Lord Jesus so that in the midst of trial and toil, fears and tears, they remember the promise of the Lord: “Call upon Me the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me” (Psalm 50:15). Prepare them and then turn your concerns over to the Lord in prayer.

As we Christian parents train our children faithfully in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, God help us to die in peace confident that we have done what we could to prepare them to navigate this life with all its unknowns until the Lord receives them into Heaven.

In summary, do what you can do now faithfully, and leave the future to the Lord!

O teach them with all diligence

The truth of God’s own Word,

To place in Him their confidence,

To fear and trust their Lord... (TLH 629, st.5).