

## VALUABLE KIDS AND GRAND KIDS

By Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother."*  
Prov. 1:7&8.

This age has become a fearful time for the raising of our children, and even concern by grandparents for their grandchildren. Our youth are under more pressure, facing more ridicule, surrounded with deadly temptations, and tempted through the eye and ear gates to try evil. Most of their school friends tease them about their faith and constantly seek to involve them in sin. Without daily supervision and warning, coupled to vigilant, loving information, they are pressured by TV, Rock music, and their friends to try the world and its offerings. I am speaking first to you parents and grandparents who still have influence over the kids God has given you. Our future generation is in big trouble unless their elders realize their responsibility to firmly establish them in eternal values now, before they become adults. We must really work on some things, the lack of which is hurting families today. Teach by example and Godly precept **The Value Of Faithfulness To A Good Church.** *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."* Heb. 10:25. I have on my desk a number of recent polls, and the results shock me. They reveal most young people, and young adults, don't pray, don't worship regularly and don't read the Bible. Among the 65% who call themselves Christian, many are mushy Christians, or Christian in name only. Most of them are just indifferent, and really not committed to their faith. 65% rarely or never pray with others, and

38% almost never pray by themselves. 65% never or rarely attend worship services and 67% don't regularly read their Bible. Half say yes and half say no, that Jesus is the only way to heaven. We have dumbed down what it means to be part of the church so much, that even those who are going, seem to think it means almost nothing to be there. 68% did not mention spirituality as important to life, 50% did not attend church at least weekly and 36% rarely opened the covers of their Bible. Does not this point out the need for the church, and parents, to figure where we have gone astray in not reaching the young generation around us. I myself can never remember my parents missing church for all the other things. Their example meant much to me, and my whole life was founded on the church, my responsibility to it, and the importance of living a life totally surrendered to God, indwelt by the spirit of Christ. Polls show 15% of kids are sold out to a Christ filled life and I pray if you are one of those you will stick with eternal values throughout your life. We parents and grandparents must continue to show the value of faithfulness to Christ and His church. We must stop making excuse for our offspring's lack of enthusiasm, make sure they are saved, and by example teach them to be loyal to Christ, and their church. Our adult example is vital as we put our Saviour and church first. Next, **Build A Spiritual Fence Around Your Kids.** *Teach them to "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away."* Prov. 4:14&15. This is an every day 24 hour task for all of us adults who love our kids and want them to love the Lord. They will be facing peer pressure on a daily basis in school and with their friends. Teach them to choose the best friends, and keep them out of the wrong crowd. Their schools education will bring them under fleshly temptation as sinful man accepts sex anytime with anyone, and fosters gay actions, same sex marriage and all

the trashing of morals by the liberal crowd. Be direct and be honest and plead for them to not fall for the worldly traps, nor long to try that which is evil that swirls around them. The fence you build has to have control over the TV and the music your family ingests. Alcohol and drugs, and immoral acts, now are glorified on TV and sung about in the beat music of our youth. Somehow by persistence and example even grandparents must help point the way to eternal things that count. The next generation is being ruined, and we must stop it if we care for our families. Show them we must stay inside the fence, or we will be an offense to God. **Concentrate On Spiritual Living And The Values Of Eternity:** *"My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments; For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee."* Prov. 3:1&2. Parents and grandparents must develop a deep lifestyle of obedience to good values, and the wishes of Christ, who dwells in your family. Stay very involved in your church, and no school or sport events should claim priority over your family filled pew each service. We must stop playing church, and hold family and relatives together. America needs true Christians who are examples of Godliness, and can offer the world a better path to follow. In Christ we have the answer to their problems, and we must lead the way. You cannot have a strong Godly family without daily prayer, and instruction as a family. Kids and grand kids need to be instructed and constantly urged to **Live In Wisdom:** *"So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;"* Prov. 2:2 The Bible instructs with great wisdom something to be sought by the entire family generation. If you raise wise children they will be a continual joy to the whole family. Dumb is not a word to be applied to our precious kids. They can rise above all sinners if they walk in the ways of the Lord. Then urge them **To Seek Discernment:** *"Yea, if thou criest after*

*knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;"* Prov. 2:3. From the Bible we must teach why some things are wrong, and the importance of why family must avoid them. For young days we want the younger to rely on the discernment of we older ones without complaint. At the same time we pray they will be establishing their own lifetime discernment based entirely on the Word of God. We must know the will of the Lord, and willingly follow it for lifetime victory, sharing God's understanding with all the family Once your kids learn true Bible discernment, and how to walk in the Spirit much good will result. **Major in Whole Family Fear Of The Lord:** *"Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God."* Prov. 2:5. The holy respect for God's will in your family, and the penalty for not living obediently, must be seen in us adults and taught daily. *"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."* Heb. 10:31. Remind your kids that God's punishment for disobedience will be far worse than parental correction. **Recall And Teach Your Parents Instruction:** *"That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous."* Prov. 2:20. If you as a parent had Godly parents then recall their great upbringing and urgings to your life. Many of those actions made and encouraged you, and need to be passed on to your kids. Example and instruction of those precious loved ones is well worth following. **Gain Insight Together:** *"Hear ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law."* Prov. 4:1&2. With this message, in this sermon I have only scratched the surface, but when Godly Values begin to be followed, your whole family will be affected. Please labor to make your whole spiritual family reach out to lost and defeated families around you. Remember your family is the only thing you can take to Heaven with you.