

How Big Problems Are Raised

1 Sam. 3:11-14

Introduction:

- A. Eli, a good man, raised some big problems for Israel — his children. (cf. 1 Sam. 2:12,17,22-25)
 - 1. Was successful with Samuel.
 - 2. Was failure with own sons.
 - 3. Was unable to restrain his sons.
- B. Many good Christians raise big problems for the church and society in general.
 - 1. Sometimes in spite of good training — exception rather than rule.
 - 2. More often because of parental irresponsibility.
 - 3. Need to be concerned with problems among our young people.
 - a. Attitude problems (spoiled).
 - b. Authority problems: at home, school, community and church.
 - c. Activity problems: Immorality, worldliness, etc.
- C. Many good Christians are unwittingly sowing the seeds that produce problems:

Discussion:

I. Neglect.

- A. Of Spiritual training. (2 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 6:4).
- B. Of proper discipline. (1 Sam. 3:13) — Firm, fair, consistent.
- C. Of personal attention. (cf. Psa. 128:3) – Too busy, Too pre-occupied.
 - 1. A listening ear.
 - 2. A time for real communion.

II. Proxy-parenting.

- A. Often turn them over to doting grandparents.
- B. Often expect church to spiritually train them.
- C. Often expect school to train them: socially, emotionally and intellectually.
- D. All of these can be valuable AIDS, but only as extension of parental responsibility.
- E. No one can replace the parents. (cf. Eph. 6:4)

III. Over-Emphasis.

- A. On material success. (Cf. Mk. 8:36-37) — Higher purpose for working than to get rich.
- B. On Secular education. (cf. 1 Cor. 1:26) — Making it an end of itself — pride.
- C. On Recreation skills. (1 Tim. 4:8) – Worse to strike out at bat than at church.
- D. On Social acceptance — anything to "fit-in".

IV. Over-Reaction.

- A. To mistreatment of our children (cf. Mt. 5:11,12) — need learn to suffer wrong.
- B. To outside correction — By school, church, police, friends.
- C. To child's misbehavior (Col. 3:21) — Correct, not avenge.

V. Provocation.

- A. To anger by harsh and unreasonable punishment. (cf. Eph. 6:4)
- B. To resentment by favoritism. (cf. Jacob toward Joseph).
 - 1. Unfair and unfavorable comparisons.
 - 2. Constant comparisons of any kind.

VI. Excuse-making.

- A. For child's misconduct — Always tell him and others that it was not his fault.
- B. For own failures — Constantly let him/her you blaming others for your problems.
- C. For seriousness of sin — Tell him sin is not so bad, won't feel guilty enough to repent.

VII. Surrender.

- A. Parental authority - Have inherent right to direct because you are parent.

- B. To whim of immaturity — Know it is wrong, but child wants to do it so bad.
- C. Of right to question. (cf. 1 Kings 1:5,6) — Parents afraid to question children about conduct and activities.
- D. Of supervision of activities — Children get parents to thinking must not interfere, must have unlimited trust.

VIII. Ignoring.

- A. Weaknesses — want to think have strongest and best children.
- B. Problems — think all problems will go away once they pass "this stage"
- C. Warnings — Think others (preacher, teachers, friends, etc) are crying "wolf".

Conclusion:

- A. Will you raise asset or problem? — If child responds to raising you are giving?