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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

Article Title:

DELINQUENT PARENTS

While unruly juveniles are often referred to as “delinquent” the fact is that parents are often delinquent in their responsibilities to both their children and to God. The foster care systems of our nation are filled with children whose parents fail to provide properly for them. Some children grow up in abusive circumstances as the result of parental delinquency. Others lack the bare necessities of life (food, clothing and shelter) because parents refuse to work to provide these to their children. Children are exposed to all kinds of hurtful situations by delinquent parents such as alcohol and drug use, pornography, cursing, lying, neglect, verbal and physical abuse, etc. Some fathers and mothers view their children as an inconvenience rather than a blessing. How sad for the children who live in such circumstances and who have no say as to these deplorable conditions. Yet, there is something even more sad – that is the delinquency of parents in providing for the spiritual needs of their children.

Parents do have the responsibility to provide for the physical needs of their children. The Bible tells us, “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1 Timothy 5:8). One who can work but refuses to work to provide for his family is both a disgrace and a sinner. Parents who love their children will not deprive them of the necessities of life when it is in their control to provide them. Loving parents will never view their children as an “inconvenience.” Children are a blessing. Psalms 127:3-5 reads, “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them.”

Sadly, the most common form of parental delinquency is failing to provide for the spiritual needs of children. This is the most important need of any child. Parents are instructed to bring their children up “in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). This involves setting an example of godliness as a parent, teaching children the Word of God and bringing them to Bible classes and worship rather than just sending them. Parents who fail to consider the spiritual needs of their children are expressing the greatest form of neglect and abuse. That is true because the consequences of such delinquency are eternal. Please, don't be a delinquent parent. Show your love for your children, and for God, by providing for both their physical and spiritual needs.

You are invited to VBS at the Green Plain church of Christ June 11-13, 7:00-8:30 PM. Our Theme is ***Evacuate: Discovering Truths of Jesus***. Classes provided for all ages including adults. Please come and bring your children or grandchildren.