

WHEN KIDS GO WRONG

HELP FOR CHRISTIAN PARENTS



Dr. William J. Finnigan

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By

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"When Kids Go Wrong"
©William J. Finnigan, D. Min.
October 2023
Printed in the United States of America

ISBN: 979-8-9890422-2-7

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Formatting, Editing and Publishing Assisted By:
The Old Paths Publications, Inc.
Gainesville, Ga 30504
www.theoldpathspublications.com
email: TOP@theoldpathspublications.com

DEDICATION

To the vast company of Christian parents committed to raising their children in the fear, admonition, and joy of the LORD. (Ephesians 6:1-4)

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INTRODUCTION

“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it...Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.” (Psalm 127:1,3)

These are momentous and challenging days to be alive! “Wars and rumors of war” characterize the condition of the world at large. Unrest and uncertainty are the order of the day; homes are shattered by divorce and rebellion, while churches suffer from spiritual lethargy and worldly intoxication. Parents and educators are struggling with an unprecedented growth of secularism and godlessness in our society. The breakdown of family structure and discipline has greatly contributed to the rise of delinquency, felonious assaults, and drug abuse, etc. The justice system has become increasingly corrupt as evidenced by our tolerance for criminal behavior and growing disdain for the police. The recent

“Covid-19 Pandemic” (so-called) with all of its restrictions and mandates, etc. has only intensified the problems of family life.

A NEW LEVEL OF VIOLENCE

The country was shocked back at the turn of the century (1999) when two classmates at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado entered the building with guns and pipe bombs; they intended to wipe out the entire school population. When it was over, thirteen bodies were removed from the “war zone;” including the two murderers who later committed suicide. This frightful episode has made a profound and sobering mark on our society; so much so that books, documentaries, etc. have been produced to rehearse and analyze this horrific event. Certainly, as many thought, nothing like this would ever happen again; this was wishful thinking at best.

Some two decades later, tragedy struck again with even more intensity and devastation. Two young men, in

separate incidents, massacred a number of innocent people; there were 10 shooting fatalities at a Buffalo, New York super market (5/14/22). Just ten days later, a second tragedy occurred (5/24/22) at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, leaving 19 children and 2 adults dead. What's going on in our society?

With the breakdown of our justice system and increasing disrespect for authority in general, I don't think we've "seen anything yet."

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HOME

Since the home is the basic bastion for teaching obedience and respect, it's no wonder our country is imploding so quickly. We are gravely concerned about our "enemies" abroad (e.g. Russia, China, etc.) who threaten our national security; but in reality, the basic "enemy is us!"

Where are the fathers and mothers who take their "calling" and responsibility seriously? It doesn't take much to

“father” a child, but being a father to a child is another matter. Parental failures, however, in no way exempt children who rebel and break the Law. But in these “last days”, as God’s judgment (Tribulation) approaches, believing dads and moms need to fully surrender to Jesus Christ; and begin “fighting” for the spiritual and emotional sanity of their families! This truth is especially vital in these troubled times when the power of Satan seems increasingly evident.

PAUL’S PROPHETIC WARNING

Hear Paul’s prophetic message to young Timothy describing a new level of demonic wickedness in the “*last days.*” (2 Timothy 3:1ff) “*Perilous times will come;*” i.e. days that are extremely troublesome, grievous, dangerous, savage (literally, hard to take). Consider this passage which reads like present day news:

*For men shall be **lovers of their own selves**, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, **disobedient***

to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (2 Timothy 3:2-5; emphasis mine)

People have always been "lovers of their own selves;" and children have always been "disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy; without natural [common] affection, etc." But we are witnessing an intensified, "snowballing" effect of these sins never seen before in our beloved land. It is heart-rending, alarming and downright scary! But it's a reality!

THE SEARCH FOR ANSWERS

There are some vital questions to be asked. Why are these tragedies happening? What is "ailing" our beloved country? Who's to blame? While I've