

How to Kill My Kid's Faith?

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(Vital: Today's message is not an indictment against parents. Hopefully, you will see more clearly why I believe the church and the home must unite as never before)

Text: Deuteronomy 6:4-9 ESV

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **5** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. **6** And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. **7** You shall **teach them diligently to your children**, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. **8** You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. **9** You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Intro:

Dr. Robert Parr (Professor of sociology at Cedarville University)

“Watergate, assassinations, campus protests, race riots, the Viet Nam war, secularism, feminism—the 1960s and 70s were a period of cultural upheaval.

“Contemporary America has experienced similar levels of upheaval: warfare, recessions, political and religious extremism, and moral relativism.”

Five Basic Institutions in all Civilizations

1) **The Family**

2) **Religion**

a. These two Dominate in Healthy civilizations

3) **Education**

4) **Government**

5) **Economy**

Note: This was the Pre Twentieth Century Order (Family and Religion Dominated)

1) **The Family**

2) **Religion**

- 3) Education
- 4) Government
- 5) Economy

Today's Value Order

1) Economy

Dr. Parr writes: “Many social scientists believe that, because of the 20th century Western institutional revolution, the economy has replaced family and religion as the primary institution that defines culture and determines life in the other four. This is more important than family and religion for many Americans.”

2) Government

Note: Many believe government and economy are becoming increasingly interconnected—Dr. Parr.

Note: Satirist **P.J. O'Rourke** quips, “If you think health care is expensive, wait until it's free.”

Note: You are rapidly becoming the slave of the state.

3) Education

Note: Fortunes are invested into education (a multi-billion dollar industry) to advance economically.

4) The Family

Note: Families are built around a five day work week, not around each other.

Note: The traditional faith in family and religion has shifted to a faith in education and government—Dr. Parr

Note: I would add that our hope and passion is for financial security. When we look at the courses selected we discover that people want to learn how to make enough money to buy an expensive car, but not the courses on what it is for.

5) Religion

Note: Volunteerism is eaten away by both husband and wife working for economic advance.

Vital: This may explain a little more why **80% of youth depart and do not return**

How to Kill My Kid's Faith? **(How to Undermine My Message of Faith)**

Vital: Every new generation is born in unbelief. That's the nature within them. Our work is to draw them to the Lord. In light of the upside down value system we better be wiser than ever.

1. Provoke them to Anger

Ephesians 6:1-4 ESV

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. **2** "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), **3** "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." **4** Fathers, **do not provoke your children to anger**, but bring them up in the **discipline** and **instruction** of the Lord.

Colossians 3:18-21 ESV

18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. **19** Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. **20** Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. **21** Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Anger: A rage that will throw off all you are trying to impart.

Discouragement: Feeling that they can never achieve enough to please you.

Three Ways We can Kill Our kid's Faith

1. We Kill Faith by Deception (Lack of Authenticity)

- **Church:** **Smiles backed by a frown** will breed frustration and anger.
 - This is not cultural trait for Germans only. I have seen it in every culture and in every country I have visited.
 - It's a prideful, sin issue!

- It may be the leading hindrance to church growth—people despise it
- **Vital Point:** young people pick up on the message of our hearts more than the words of our mouths.
 - Rejection can be felt when coming through a false smile
 - Rejection is a killing force

2. We Kill Faith by Disapproval

- **Every Youth has Three Driving Needs:**
 - **Acceptance that is Unconditional**
 - **Affirmed to Maturity (Right of Passage)**
 - **Achievement that is Praised**
- **Acceptance that is Unconditional**
 - If you are ashamed in the slightest over your child's athletic ability or intellectual aptitude, you need not say a word. He or she will feel it, and you could be killing their faith.
 - Raising children by negative reinforcement rather than positive reinforcement will distort their view of God and kill their faith.
- **Affirmed to Maturity (Given the Right of Passage)**
 - **Tom G.:** Never achieved because his father never gave him the right to be a man.
 - His poetry is magnificent
 - His music was exceptional
 - He never let anyone see it.
 - He died last year at age seventy, his gifts lost to the world
 - His dad never told him he was good enough
- **Achievement that is Encouraged**
 - Most people will never be known for Einstein's achievement level, but does that mean they have to right to encouragement?
 - **The man born blind** is not known in history for a rare achievement other than to bring glory to God. Is that not extraordinary?

- We must encourage each person in God's purpose for their lives. Serving in lonely obscurity is never out of God's sight.

3. We Kill Faith by Duplicity (Hypocrisy)

The spiritual duplicity Youth Easily Detect:

- When words and actions are not the same
- When words and attitudes are not the same
- When words and spirit is not the same
 - No one will follow duplicity.

Call to Action

Staff Ideas about Parenting:

1. Fighting (not agreeing to disagree in warmth) Harsh, bitter standoff
 2. Parents blaming each other for the problems faced in the home.
 3. Talking to each other through the dog
 4. Forcing kids to take sides
 5. Inconsistent actions
 6. Worldly Priorities: church, school, pleasure etc.
 7. Parents showing preference for the other person's wishes
 8. Abuse of authority by the husband
 9. Ignoring the husbands authority
 10. Don't tell, show!
 11. Dualism of behavior between performance at church and at home
 12. Are children aware you are a serious prayer warrior
 13. Dad's who make spirituality a woman's game . . . by words, attitudes, actions
 14. Division in discipline (one harsh and one mushy)
 15. How you react when mud hitting the fan lands on you
 16. Forcing your expectations and not the will of God
- Basic point: What spiritual messages am I conveying through my life to my children?

Let's Exhort One Another

Hebrews 3:13 "But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

- "**Exhort**" (Greek *para-kaleo*) is translated "**comfort**," "**beseech**," and literally means "**call alongside**."
- The Holy Spirit is called the [Paraklete]. He comes alongside to help us.
- So **we must come alongside one another** in equipping the next generation to serve Christ in a darkening world.
- **Young People:**
Come alongside and
help us help you!