

BIBLICAL • FAMILY • MINISTRIES

Friend of the Family

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Family Issues

Dr. Allen Griffith

Our country and our culture have and continue to undergo dramatic, negative change. An area of great concern is the educational system. Schools have become a major avenue of indoctrination, having taken full advantage of vulnerable children under their control and influence. The heart of the problem is compulsory education.

Early in our history, schools were not available. Unless someone could afford tutors, parents taught their own children. The Puritans pushed for public education, with the goals of teaching the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic. They also thought schools could reinforce society's core values of faith, character, integrity, and more.

Thomas Jefferson advocated tax funded education for all. Not much happened until the mid-1800s, when Horace Mann took up the cause. He was a legislator in Massachusetts, who along with others, pushed for nationwide free and compulsory education for every child in the country. He is known as the Father of Public Education, but the principles he set forth would diminish religious influence in schools and establish government control of education. The results have been disastrous.

In 1852, Massachusetts established the first laws requiring school attendance. Other states followed. By the early 1900s, all children in the nation were required



to get an elementary school education. Today, every state has a compulsory education law for elementary and secondary schools. From the earliest days of discussion, many have argued that compulsory education laws are unconstitutional and are a violation of parental rights. More than ever before, we are seeing children indoctrinated to accept views that are anti-God, anti-American, anti-

family, and anti-morality.

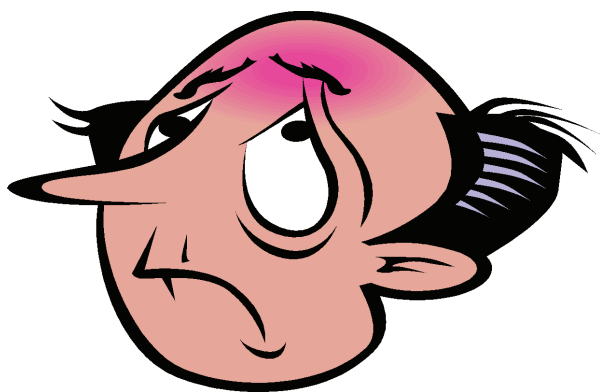
Thankfully, the options of private and parochial schools, and home schooling are available. Such options are expensive and inconvenient, but Christian parents must accept responsibility for the education of their children. The challenge to train children was given to parents by God.

Government education is easy. The government will transport your child, feed your child, educate (indoctrinate) your child, destroy your child, and it will cost you—EVERYTHING. We are in a battle for the soul of the country, but more importantly—for the souls of our children. We have learned that whenever the government provides, it ends up taking control. Today, it is controlling what our children are learning. It has their attention and submission for about one third of their waking hours. That is far more than the direct, immediate influence and instruction provided by parents.

Get serious. Get creative. We must reclaim our children from educators who seldom believe what we believe or value what we value.

What are you going to do?

Trends & Troubles



The issue of abortion has been addressed many times in almost every religious and secular setting imaginable over the last 50 years. The infamous U.S Supreme Court Roe V. Wade decision of 1973, was perhaps the greatest attack ever against the culture of our country. In an amazing unconstitutional verdict, the Court created a new right for women to kill their unborn children, up to the point of viability.

Viability is the point at which the baby can survive outside the womb, which in 1973 was judged to be between 24-28 weeks of the gestation period. The decision was flawed constitutionally, medically, scientifically, and spiritually. The real consideration should have been related to the life of the child. Was it to be assumed that the child had no life, until it was viable?

Viability has been proven to be more of a measure of the medical community's care skills than of the actual condition of the child's life. Modern medical procedures that enable the pre-mature infant to live rather than die if left alone, do not change the reality of the baby's life. Viability is not the determinant in evaluating life—it only measures medical technology.

Roe vs Wade ignored medical capabilities. No consideration was given to life beginning at conception—or even to the time when the heart begins to beat. In fact, there was no consideration at all for the individual life of the child. The issue was the supposed right of the mother to kill, rather than the right of the child to live. Where was science? Constitutionally Roe V. Wade was disastrous, because our founding documents proclaim the right to life for every person. The Justices rejected obvious truth by claiming that the personhood of the unborn child could not be proved.

Lastly, Roe V. Wade was flawed spiritually. The Bible had been acknowledged in this country as the Word of God, but the Court walked away from the clear and obvious truth of Scripture—that individual human life begins at conception. More recently the Court addressed the abortion issue with the Dobb's decision. It basically took the Court out of the abortion issue, by turning the matter back to the States. The value in that decision is that it puts the issue in the hands of elected officials, which in turn gives power to the electorate. The weakness is twofold. The electorate is uneducated on the matter of life in the womb. And, in this writer's opinion, if any law should be established on the Federal level, it should be the right to life.



I mentioned Daniel in our last article of *God is looking for men*. We considered his stand for the Lord in his later years. I firmly believe his unshakeable testimony grew out of convictions he established early in his life. As a captive in Babylon, he faced great pressures regarding how he would live. He was only about 15 and had very little encouragement to live for the LORD. His testimony, as recorded in Daniel 1, reveals a young man who was willing to follow authority, until that authority forced him to choose between his God and his new government. Daniel obeyed the *rules* until he was told to eat food and drink beverages that would defile him before the true and living God. He chose God. We are facing increasing pressure in our country. We do not know what price there may be in the future that will have to be paid, to be faithful to our God. The wise and godly man will evaluate all things that may come his way, and decide early to stand, perhaps alone, for God.

ARE YOU WILLING TO BE THAT MAN?

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Prescription *For The Family*

We are discussing parental authority. In our last article we briefly saw God's instruction to children regarding obedience to their parents. In conferences, I sometimes point out to children that some verses in the Bible are just for them. They should be taught that God gave them to their parents, and it is God who demands their obedience and submission. Ephesians 6:1-3 and Colossians 3:20 should be reminders to children that while they are answerable to their parents, their greater accountability will be to God. That will provide good motivation for children up through the teen years and beyond.

The fact is however, parents are given the greater responsibility in establishing a God honoring family. The precious text of Proverbs 22:6 will be forever treasured and cherished by some, while being ignored or rejected by others.

The subject needs attention, because many Christians have bought into the worldly philosophies of child rearing. We must turn to the Scriptures for guidance—and, as we said in our last article, when we find out what the Bible says—we must do it. For parents to understand the importance of proper child rearing is critical, because they will need to start the training process long before their children are able to understand the texts of Ephesians 6 and Colossians 3.

Proverbs 22:6 tells parents to train their children. This basic concept needs to sink deeply into the heart and mind of every parent. CHILDREN MUST BE



TRAINED. The fundamental aspects of training are control, teaching, and loving. We will give thoughts on these aspects of rearing children in our next article, but we will not go into depth. If you are interested in a copy of our book – ***Parenting: One Chance to Do It Right***, contact us and we will send you a free copy.

More next time.

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If you don't see the world through the Bible, you will never see it right.



From Under the Umbrella

By Patricia E. Griffith

We had such a precious time of thanksgiving at our home and in our church! God is so good. He is so good to me! Through much thanksgiving, we are becoming more and more concerned for the lost. Things are quickly happening in the world and in our America. We are so burdened for cousins and other extended family members, who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior.

But, it is not just our family, it is the world around us! As we approach Christmas time, we hopefully have open hearts to hear God's Word of salvation, once again. We are praying every day for the lost and want to be a testimony to our families and to the world around us of God's love and provision for salvation. The time is short. Won't you join us, as we live our life to show and tell the wonderful truth of God's Word?

Have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year!

BFM RESOURCES:

All listed prices are suggested donations.

BOOKS AND BOOKLETS:

OUR TWO NEWEST BOOKS -

- * *God is Looking For Men: Is He Looking for You?....* \$12.99
- * *The Promised One: Jesus Christ* \$2.25
- * *Israel, Still God's Chosen People.....* \$11.99
- * *Does It Matter? (A look at Bible manuscripts and versions).....* \$8.00
- * *Before the Throne of Grace - Leather.....* \$19.99
- * *Victory Over Trial and Trouble - hardback book*
Getting real victory in life \$13.95
- * *Parenting: One Chance to Do it Right* \$12.95
- Serving as a Deacon - booklet.....* \$2.50

eBOOKS:

Titles marked with an «*» above are available as eBooks:
FaithfulLifePublishers.com -- SEARCH: Allen Griffith

CDs:

- Holy Ground - 3 messages.....* \$12.00
- Til Death Do Us Part - 6 messages* \$18.00
- Parenting - 6 messages.....* \$18.00
- The Basic Family Series - 6 messages* \$18.00

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Christmas Opportunity

The world has sought to claim Christmas for its own. We must not let it win. Find some new way to proclaim the message of the Savior's birth. The Christmas story is the incredible work of our God to enter humanity, to bear our sin, to save our soul, to provide eternal life to all who would believe. I suppose as we get older, we become more conscious of the passing of souls into eternity. How many were here last year, but now are gone? How many left this life without Christ? Christmas has been secularized to a great degree, but I believe it is still a time of greatest openness and tenderness to spiritual things. Seek the opportunity to spread the Christmas story to as many as possible this year.

We pray you and yours will have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed 2024.

Even so come, Lord Jesus!