

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR CHILDREN?



By Conrad Barrett

Earth has no treasure that is richer or greater than that of our children. They are the world's finest asset. They are that special generation of today and they are that special generation of tomorrow and without them, our world would degrade to a bleak and dismal end. They are that unique force of energy which vitalizes our homes with life, fills our communities and schools with challenge and excitement, and provides our churches with growth and new life. Without them planet earth would be a lonely place.

The promise of the future is bright for millions of children, but tragic and frightening for others. Too many of our children have been and will be victims of an unkind world of adults. Some will experience torture, and ridicule. Some will be physically and emotionally hurt and many will be killed. Others will be sexually abused and have other bodily harm inflicted. These things reflect a serious malady in our society. Surely this pattern of behavior must stop and as adults, we must rise above this barbaric conduct to a status of responsible and loving care for our most wonderful assets.

In spite of the demise of many, the presence of more children are accelerating our population. Now they represent a major part of the whole. Millions, however, are not with us now and never will be. They will never get to play in our neighborhoods, sing in our choirs, compete in our sports arenas, attend our schools and work in our work places. They will never be able to marry and have their own children. Instead, their lives have met with a brutal ending in a place that should be the safest haven on earth.

How tragic it is when we are made aware that millions of little people are destroyed each year. Those numbers are growing, too. The mother's womb was never meant to be a kill cell, but was created for and intended to be a propagation of life. Procreation is a gift from God and should be treated with reverence and respect. Answering time is coming, sooner or later, for those who abuse God's blessing. The overworked excuses of "save the mother's life" or "rape" or "it's my body" or "it's my choice" and "I can do what I want at the expense of my child or anyone else" will be fully evaluated and justly dealt with before our just and eternal God someday. Whatever our conditions or justification on earth, right or wrong, we should be aware that the law of the land will never ultimately supersede the law of the Almighty. At some time we shall all face Him for our deeds on earth.

There is such a broad area of confusion that prevails in treatment of children. Death inside the womb gets one kind of legal consideration while death outside the womb gets a different one. To many of us, this is a double standard and a great travesty of our justice system. It weakens our morals as well as our system of jurisprudence. Who, then, among the living will raise a voice for the unborn that is destined to be a casualty? Who will speak on his or her behalf? It is just as wrong to kill a child inside the womb as it

is outside the womb. It is equally wrong to retaliate with bodily harm against those who practice abortion as a method of family planning. A voice of dissent is much different from an infliction of bodily harm. Our greatest weapon against the worker of iniquity is love and prayer. Please remember that God will bring every work of mankind into His own judgment whether it is good or evil and His standards will then prevail.

Once, born, our children are entitled to be loved and cared for in a safe environment. Not only should they be told they are loved, but they should be shown. Knowing about where they are and whom they are with is important. Children are entitled to grow up in drug-free and alcohol-free homes. Morals in the home are important, too. Who the adults are, in and around the house, should never be people who are there in a questionable way. Children are very observing and smart. Their eyes and minds are open and as adults, we continuously plant seed. Let us lead by example.

Children in today's world in many ways are like children of the past. They have their own unique difficulties and strengths. Perfection is not the word that best describes them, but then neither is badness. They are products of us all and what they see us do and say. It seems that love is the most cherished thing that children really want and love is within our reach to give. There is a difference between attention and love. Attention seems to address a short-term emotion while genuine love addresses a deeper need. All of us desire and want love and all of us should give and receive it.

In one sense children belong to their parents and should be with them as much as possible, but in the broader one they belong to us all and are our heritage. Therefore, we have a special challenge to love them and help protect them. An attack on our children is an attack on us all.

There seems to be a sinister attack on the minds of our children. Their young and tender brains are assaulted continuously with an exposure to violence, guns, and explosive devices along with frightening and demonic influences. Surely these things are not coincidental. It seems as though they are perpetrated by crafty minds of evil whose intentions are tilted toward brutality. No wonder we have terrible things happening in the community of children. What else can we expect when they digest such a mental diet of violence? Our children should be challenged, but not at the expense of that which is good and right.

If this opinion challenges you to love and help our children, then it will have been understood for its intended purpose. Regardless of race or other consideration our children deserve the best from all adults and they need our help now. Let this challenge be interpreted as being an opportunity and let us seize it today. When we all get involved in a positive way, our world will become a better place to live.

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