

# **CHILDREN'S WORK CONFERENCE**

**Raising Up the Next Generation  
for the Church Life**

OUTLINES

**Fall 2021**

**Children's Work Conference  
Message Outlines and Ministry Reading Excerpts**

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All scripture reading verses are quoted from *The Recovery Version of the Bible* unless otherwise indicated. *The Recovery Version of the Bible* is published by Living Stream Ministry, Anaheim, CA.

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MESSAGE ONE  
**BEING PATTERNS  
FOR FOSTERING THE CHILDREN  
AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Scripture Reading: 1 Thes. 1:5-8; 2:1-20; 2 Thes. 3:7, 9; 1 Pet. 5:2-4

- I. For new believers to live a holy life for the church life, there is the need of the aspect of fostering—1 Thes. 2:7-12; Eph. 5:29, footnote 1:
  - A. Paul likens the apostles both to a nursing mother and to an exhorting father; the apostles regarded the believers as children under their fostering care; just as parents care for their children, fostering their growth, so the apostles cared for the new believers—1 Thes. 2:6b-7, 11.
  - B. First Thessalonians is a word to beginners, to new believers; those who are working with young people or with new believers can receive from this book both a direction and an outline to follow—1:3 and footnote 2.
- II. Paul fostered the young believers mainly by presenting them a pattern of life, a pattern of a proper living; this pattern was actually Paul himself—v. 5; 2:10; 2 Thes. 3:7-9:
  - A. The apostles not only preached the gospel but also lived it; their ministering of the gospel was not only by word but also by a life that displayed the power of God, a life in the Holy Spirit and in the assurance of faith—1 Thes. 1:5.
  - B. The apostle Paul stressed repeatedly the apostles' entrance toward the believers; this shows that their manner of life played a great role in infusing the gospel into the new converts—vv. 5, 9; 2:1:
    1. The apostles were struggling and speaking the gospel to the Thessalonians in the boldness of God—v. 2.
    2. The apostles were free from deception, uncleanness, and guile—v. 3.
    3. The apostles were first tested and approved by God and then were entrusted by Him with the gospel; hence, their speaking, the preaching of the gospel, was not of themselves to please men but of God to please Him—v. 4; Psa. 139:23-24.
    4. The apostles were never found with flattering speech nor with a pretext for covetousness—1 Thes. 2:5.
    5. The apostles did not seek glory from men—v. 6a:
      - a. To seek glory from men is a real temptation to every Christian worker; many have been devoured and spoiled by this matter—1 Sam. 15:12.
      - b. Lucifer became God's adversary, Satan, because of glory-seeking; anyone who seeks glory from men is a follower of Satan—Ezek. 28:13-17; Isa. 14:12-15; Matt. 4:8-10.
      - c. How much we will be used by the Lord and how long our usefulness will last depend on whether we seek glory from men—John 7:17-18; 5:39-44; 12:43; 2 Cor. 4:5.
    6. The apostles did not stand on their own authority, or dignity, as apostles of Christ—1 Thes. 2:6b.
    7. The apostles cherished the believers and yearned over them as a nursing mother would cherish and yearn over her own children—vv. 7-8, cf. v. 17; Gal. 4:19; Isa. 49:14-15; 66:12-13.
    8. The apostles imparted not only the gospel of God to the Thessalonians but also imparted their own souls—1 Thes. 2:8; 2 Cor. 12:15.

9. The apostles considered themselves as fathers in exhorting the believers to walk in a manner worthy of God, to have a walk that will enable them to enter into the kingdom of God and usher them into the glory of God—1 Thes. 2:11-12.
- III. To do the work of fostering—to shepherd people and to cherish and nourish them—is to give them a proper pattern; Paul fed his spiritual children with his own living of Christ—vv. 1-12; 2 Cor. 1:23—2:14; 1 Cor. 9:22; Acts 20:28:
    - A. Parents are patterns, models, for their children; whatever the parents are, the children will be also; imitating is related to growing; children grow by imitating their parents—2 Thes. 3:9; Heb. 13:7.
    - B. To give the new believers and young ones a lot of teaching is not the proper way to take care of them; the proper way to foster them is to show them a pattern; by showing them a pattern, you water them, supply them, nourish them, and cherish them—2 Cor. 3:6; 1 Cor. 8:1b; 1 Thes. 2:8.
    - C. The source, the origin, of the apostles' preaching was God and not themselves; whenever we preach or teach, we must impress others with the fact that what we are saying is not the word of man but is truly the word of God—v. 13; Heb. 4:12.
    - D. The church in Thessalonica imitated the churches in Judea—1 Thes. 2:14:
      1. Reports concerning the churches in Judea reached the believers in Thessalonica; they must have heard about the churches and the saints, and these reports fostered the growth of the Thessalonian believers—v. 14.
      2. Nothing can foster a church or a saint as much as a true story about other saints or churches—Acts 27:21, footnote 2; Rom. 16:4, 13.
    - E. The inoculating word was part of Paul's fostering of the saints; even inoculation is included in fostering; Paul inoculated the believers against the eventual coming of the Judaizers—1 Thes. 2:15.
    - F. Paul likened the departure of the apostles from the Thessalonians to a bereavement, a loss the apostles suffered from being separated from the new believers and that caused the apostles to miss them; this word implies that the apostles considered the new converts precious and dear to them—vv. 15-17.
  - IV. Those who work with the Lord in fostering the believers to walk worthily of God will receive a reward; this reward will be the believers we have fostered, becoming our crown, glory, and joy—1 Thes. 2:19-20; 1 Pet. 5:3-4:
    - A. Because the apostles rendered such a care to the new believers, the apostles will eventually receive a reward from the Lord—1 Thes. 19-20.
    - B. First Thessalonians 2:20 indicates that since the apostles were the believers' nursing mother and exhorting father, the believers, as their children, were their glory and joy; apart from them, the apostles had no hope, glory, or crown of boasting—vv. 19-20.
    - C. "When the Chief Shepherd is manifested, you will receive the unfading crown of glory"—1 Pet. 5:4; Matt. 24:45-47.

## MESSAGE TWO

### **THE CHILDREN'S WORK BEING TO BUILD CHILDREN UP IN THEIR HUMANITY TO BE PROPER HUMAN BEINGS**

Scripture Reading: 1 Tim. 3:7; Matt. 19:19; Prov. 22:6; 2 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 6:1-2, 4; Rom. 9:21, 23; 13:1; 2 Tim. 2:20-21; Gal. 3:24; 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Cor. 3:2

- I. Today, many young people have been damaged with respect to their character; it is because of this that we have a children's work for the children; we need to build up their character—1 Tim. 3:7; Acts 6:3; Prov. 28:20a:
  - A. The children must be built up as proper human beings; this is a matter of character, that is, behavior and habit—Matt. 5:16.
  - B. From their youth they must learn to honor their parents, love their brothers and sisters, and respect others—19:19.
  - C. We do not need to give the young ones too much knowledge of the Bible; we should rather build them up with the proper ethics and morality that will constitute a proper character—Prov. 22:6.
- II. Character has very much to do with the Lord's service; consider those persons in the Bible whom God used; they were used by God because they possessed a character that was fit for His use—Rom. 12:1; Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 2:21; 4:11:
  - A. Since Abraham, Moses, and Paul all had an excellent character, God greatly used them; the destiny of our usefulness to the Lord hinges on our character—Acts 15:40; Luke 24:27; Matt. 1:2.
  - B. Character is a serious matter; the measure of grace we receive of the Lord and the degree to which the function of that grace is manifested are determined by the kind of character that we have—Eph. 4:7; 1 Pet. 4:10.
- III. To build up a proper humanity is the way to prepare the children to be the best material to receive God's grace—Rom. 9:21, 23; 2 Tim. 2:20-21; 1 Pet. 2:5; Matt. 16:18:
  - A. It is best to help the children grow up in their humanity by helping them know what a proper human being is, how to honor their parents, and how to be a proper child—Eph. 6:1-2; Col. 1:10; Prov. 22:6.
  - B. Since our families are part of the fallen race, we parents must exercise God's ordination to restrict our children by ethical teachings, regulations, and discipline.
  - C. For proper human living in your home, you must teach your children to behave properly by honoring their parents, caring for their brothers and sisters, respecting their neighbors, and not stealing—v. 6; Eph. 6:4.
  - D. Because children are too young to behave according to Christ, they must be taught to behave according to culture; children are preserved by culture while they are growing up—Rom. 13:1; Gal. 3:23.
  - E. In caring for their children, Christian parents need to preach the law to them; we should not first preach grace to the children; if we give them regulations according to the law, the law will keep them in custody for Christ—2 Tim. 3:15; Rom. 13:1; Gal. 3:24.
- IV. To compile material for the teachers, we need a number of brothers who know the truth and are also skilled in writing—1 Tim. 3:15; 2:4; Titus 1:1:
  - A. We should give the five- and six-year-olds one thing and the seven- and eight-year-olds something else; we need some brothers and sisters who understand this principle to prepare the lessons—1 John 2:12-13.
  - B. This requires the careful work of the brothers who compile the teaching material so that the children do not receive premature knowledge—1 Tim. 1:4; Mark 4:8, 11:

1. The most important matter is to build up the humanity and character of the children; this is neglected by many parents today.
  2. There is the need for some brothers and sisters to spend the time to prepare lessons and instructions on how to use them—Rom. 12:7; cf. 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 John 2:27.
  3. We should not prepare uniform printed lessons to be read in each class; perhaps half a page of points, illustrations, and instructions is adequate; it should be easy to prepare lessons in this way.
- V. When many of us were young, we received too much knowledge that only damaged us; we were given many stories, but we were not given the proper verses in a practical way—1 Cor. 3:2; Titus 3:9; 1 Cor. 8:2-3:
- A. After hearing all the teachings and stories from the Bible, young ones become “slippery” so that nothing sticks to them; we must not spoil the young ones in this way.
  - B. Those who have never heard the stories before are easily inspired by them; this is why we should withhold certain stories and simply help the children to know the things of humanity and of God in a practical way—Phil. 4:9.
  - C. Then when they are saved and begin to attend the church meetings, what they hear will be new to them.
  - D. We have to beware of two things: first, there is the possibility of premature spiritual knowledge; second, we can give away biblical truths too cheaply:
    1. Some teachers are too spiritual; they tell children teachings that are too high and too spiritual; this gives the children premature spiritual knowledge—1 Cor. 3:2.
    2. Other teachers treat spiritual things too lightly in an attempt to make the children understand; their speaking does not do justice to the spiritual weight of their subject; this gives away the truth too cheaply—John 5:39; 1 Tim. 6:19.

**MESSAGE THREE**  
**BUILDING UP A PREVAILING**  
**CHILDREN'S WORK IN THE CHURCH**

Scripture Reading: Psa. 127:3; Heb. 11:7; 2 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 4:7-16; Rom. 16:1, 12-13; 1 Tim. 4:12; Judg. 5:15-16; Dan. 11:32; 1 Cor. 12:14-22

- I. We expect the children's work among us to be very prevailing; therefore, we need to have a proper realization and preparation for this work—Gen. 1:28; Psa. 127:3:
  - A. When we speak of the children's work, we are referring to children who have not graduated from elementary school but are more than five years old; these are the target of our children's work.
  - B. The saints can open their homes for children's meetings; we need many brothers and sisters to open their homes; how beautiful this service will be, and how much the Lord's work will be propagated!—Acts 2:46; 6:7a.
- II. The responsible brothers and the co-workers in every place must see the importance of the children's work in God's family; this should be a great matter to us—Heb. 11:7; Psa. 127:3; Gen. 33:5b; Dan. 1:3-4; Matt. 24:45; 25:16; Rom. 9:23; 2 Tim. 3:15; 1 Tim. 3:4-5; Acts 16:31-32; Eph. 4:12-16; 1 Tim. 4:12:
  - A. No family will disregard its children; as a priority a family looks after its children, raises them, and teaches them; hence, we must serve the many children in God's family—Psa. 127:3; Eph. 6:4; Matt. 19:13-14.
  - B. The co-workers do not need to be personally involved in doing the children's work; they can meet with the leading sisters in a locality and entrust the burden for the children's work to them, and they can encourage them—Phil. 1:1c; Rom. 16:1, 12-13.
  - C. The elders must lead the church to receive a burden for the children's work; the church should concentrate its effort on this work—1 Tim. 2:1-4; Gal. 1:4; 1 Thes. 2:7-11; Rom. 10:17; Acts 16:31-32.
  - D. All the churches must have a children's work; if we work with these children, they will all be young brothers and sisters after six to seven years—Eph. 4:12-16; Zech. 4:10; cf. Matt. 25:16.
  - E. We cannot continue to work as we have in the past; we must change our ways; in the past we neglected the work with the children.
- III. In carrying out this work, first, a number of sisters should rise up to lead the children's work; the elders should also appoint some sisters to take up this responsibility—Rom. 16:1, 6, 12-13; Mark 15:41:
  - A. A number of older sisters must receive this burden; over ninety percent of the children's work requires the sisters' participation; otherwise, there is no way for the children's work to succeed—1 Tim. 5:2a; cf. Col. 4:17.
  - B. The sisters in every church should be persistent to promote the burden for the children—cf. Luke 18:1-8; 1 Sam. 1:11:
    1. On the one hand, they should not give the brothers any peace, and on the other hand, they should learn not to assume the leadership but to be full of patience, knowing when to proceed and when to wait—1 Cor. 11:3; John 7:6; Matt. 15:21-28.
    2. The sisters should be persistent to develop the children's work in the church; furthermore, according to the leading of the Lord, they should fellowship with other sisters who are serving—1 Cor. 15:10a; 1 John 1:3, 7; 1 Cor. 12:21-22.
  - C. The sisters should also bring the children to the meeting; every week the sisters should consider how to bring the children to the meeting.
  - D. We must use the young sisters to lead the children's meetings; the church should train the teachers so that the young sisters learn to teach and lead the children—2 Tim. 2:2.

- E. Many of the sisters love the Lord, but they need to find the way to do something for the Lord; if we bear the little ones as fruit, the Lord will add them to our account—Matt. 25:14-30; 2 Pet. 1:8; 1 Thes. 2:19:
  - 1. Only eternity will reveal the result of this; perhaps out of a group of children for whom we are caring, some will become apostles—2 Tim. 3:15; 1:2; 1 Cor. 4:17.
  - 2. Therefore, I encourage the sisters to do this good work; all the housewives can bring children to the meetings, and the younger sisters can be trained to cooperate with them to bear these little ones as fruit.
- IV. We also need the help of the young people in the children's work; this matter must be developed—1 Tim. 4:12:
  - A. There is quite a large number of children in every locality; as soon as we begin the children's work, the young people will begin to function; they can all take part in serving the children:
    - 1. We can ask the brothers in the church to perfect the junior high and high school brothers and sisters to assist in teaching the children.
    - 2. With regard to the children's work, even though the junior high and high school students can teach in the children's meetings, the children's work will be carried forward by the full-timers, because they will prepare teaching materials and make a schedule.
  - B. The young people need to give themselves to this work, and this will give everyone an opportunity to practice speaking.
- V. The elderly saints may use their homes; after the children get off from school, the elderly saints may open their homes and prepare some snacks to welcome them:
  - A. They may sing with the children, tell them stories, and lead them to know God.
  - B. Gaining people in this way is very safe, because they are taught by us and receive the gospel from us from their youth; thus, they should be very solid.
  - C. I hope that from now on the elderly saints would pick up the burden and take the lead to do this in their homes; the effect will be very promising in the long run.
- VI. When the entire church is mobilized in this way, all the brothers and sisters will have an opportunity to serve; some can open their homes, others can bring the children to the meetings, and still others can teach the children; when all the saints endeavor in one accord for the Lord's heart's desire, the profit will be immeasurable—Judg. 5:15-16; Dan. 11:32; 1 Cor. 12:14-22; Eph. 4:7-16:
  - A. We should take action immediately; all the churches should encourage the saints in this matter, and we should pray for this matter—Judg. 5:15-16; Dan. 11:32; 1 Tim. 2:1.
  - B. All the saints want their children to receive spiritual help; even dormant saints want their children to receive spiritual guidance.