

"Unrestrained" Children

Greg Gwin

A disturbing trend is evident in the church today. It involves parents, children, and an increasing "softness" on some important moral and spiritual issues. Specifically, it is manifested in the practice of parents allowing their children to do things that they themselves would never do.

Too often we learn of parents allowing their kids to wear shorts, halters, bare-midriiffs, swimsuits, etc. Mind you, the parents would never consider wearing such attire themselves. Or, it may be the watching of filthy movies. The parents would not go -- ever -- but they seem to look the other way when their kids do. We could add to the list of things that mothers and fathers would conscientiously avoid (mixed swimming, activity on the Internet, etc.). But, somehow they justify their children to do so -- or they just "look the other way." Where is the logic in this? If it is wrong for you, it is wrong for your kids!

Here is the crucial question: Are your personal values and judgments the right ones? Obviously, you think they are, or you would change them. Now, if your standards are right for you, why aren't they right for your children? And, if they are right for your children, how do you expect them to acquire these values if you don't teach them? Think!

The Scriptures command us to train our children in the ways of God (Eph. 6:4). Failing to do so is a sin. If we don't teach them while they are young, how can we expect them to do better when they are old (Proverbs 22:6)? Surely, the case of Eli stands as a warning to all parents. God said, "I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not" (1 Sam. 3:13).

And, finally, we ask: Where are the grandparents!?! Again, it seems to be the case that grandparents are unwilling to speak out against what their children allow their grandchildren to do. We urge grandparents to do the right thing. God will see it and reward you (2 Tim. 1:5). Your power to influence is great – use it!