

Your Family and *Change*

Kenneth Kremer

For some of us the wheels of unity and harmony begin to come off in family life when the day-to-day routine is interrupted by a drastic change. *Change* is a high-level stressor. How well does your family adjust when unexpected changes occur?

Transitional stresses can come from sudden or unexpected changes in society, culture, the economy, laws, the political landscape, technology, or a host of other factors. But internal changes—a job loss, a career change, changes in living arrangements, marital status, locale, the birth of a baby, an illness, attending a new school, or the changes that come with raising a family—can also be unsettling.

Some things just have to change because that's the way God made them. Seeds grow before fruit can be harvested. Autumn becomes winter, and winter turns to spring. On the other hand, some things will never change. God says, "I the LORD do not change" (Malachi 3:6). The trick is to know the difference between those things that will change, those that will not change, and those that must change.

You and I have control over some kinds of change through the choices we make. But (thankfully) God does not give us control over everything. He wants us to learn to trust his judgment and have confidence in him when he is at the wheel. Still, it's usually the changes that God doesn't give us control over that cause us to stress out.

The first change in history was recorded in Genesis 1:3; God turned night into day. Since then, not even a sparrow will fall to the ground dead if God doesn't will it (Matthew 10:29).

Change is God's invention; like the rest of his creation it is good. He is its master. He created us to fit perfectly into our world of constant change. We're all changing at this very moment.

**WHEN I DOUBT
THAT GOD IS IN
CONTROL, I BEGIN
TO SEE MYSELF
AS THE VICTIM
OF CHANGE.**

While we may occasionally long for a change, many adults are generally uncomfortable with it. This attitude is a conditioned response. Painful experiences can cause us to fear change. Children are usually less afraid of change. Some seem to even welcome it.

God has promised to make painful and traumatic events serve our eternal good. Even when a change causes pain, God will find a way to use it in our best interest. He has worked tirelessly

throughout history to bring about a real and lasting change in our broken relationship with him. He freed us from the slavery of sin and made us heirs of heaven. Ezekiel 11:19 describes how God's Holy Spirit has changed each of our hearts of stony unbelief into living flesh. That's certainly a welcomed change in our eternal status with God.

Victims or agents?

Yet there are times when we resent the changes God permits in our lives. We fear the day when a loved one dies and we will have to live without that person. We worry about a change in our job status, our health, or the economy. We may even be afraid of losing our faith or losing the purity of the Bible's truth that is a special blessing of our church. We have these doubts and fears in spite of Jesus' promise to be with us—a promise he has never broken. When we see wickedness gaining momentum in our world, the level of anxiety increases even more, and we begin to wonder if God really is in control. In this frame of mind, we inevitably see ourselves as victims of change. Satan uses this deceptive ploy to get us to shift our attention from the soul's real enemies: sin, death, and his deadly power.

Saint Paul tells us that God wants us to see ourselves as conquerors (Romans 8:37), not victims. Actually, we are to be Jesus' *agents of change*—to change the world with our lives as examples, sharing the gospel with those who still have hearts of stone. The good news of the gospel is the most powerful of all change agents.

To support us in this agent-of-change role, God gives us the remarkable gift of *prayer*. Prayer turns everything we know

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(Your Family and Change . . . cont.)

about change on its head. Prayer gives us the power to change the course of history by simply asking in Jesus' name.

Growth as change

No change is more profound than the kind that occurs when we are growing. How quickly an infant's body develops! How dramatically a life changes when a child learns to read!

Jesus taught that essential change is also taking place whenever our faith is growing stronger. Using a little child as the object of his lesson, Jesus said, "Unless you *change and become* like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). What a radical statement! As adults, we like to think that we are mature enough to have a little more control over our lives. *Think again*, says Jesus.

A child has no resources for controlling his future—no money, no education, no good reputation, no experience, no title of authority, no talent, no intellect, no academic credentials, no plan, no political power, and no coping skills. A little child is incapable of exerting those kinds of influence on anything or anyone. Yet he is unafraid; the people around him will provide whatever he needs. *Of that he is sure!*

That's what Jesus wants us to *become*, like little children. Our eternal future hangs in the balance. Of course, that whole discussion is absurd. Who can become a child again?

Jesus' lesson would be very foolish, indeed, if it weren't also very humbling.

And that is the point. We need to relearn how to depend on God to move us along throughout our ever-changing lives. He alone can turn a weak faith into a faith that isn't afraid of change. Only God can turn us back into children.

The apostle Paul wrote, "When I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10). That was his childlike faith speaking. The same is also true for us. Having faith like a child is the secret to handling every kind of change that comes our way.

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To add thoughts and continue the discussions about these questions and answers, go to

www.parentscrosslink.net.

How can I teach my children to be content with what they have in a world that is always clamoring for more?

Discontent is a product of the sinful heart that only thinks about self. When we compare what we have with what others have, discontent affects how we perceive ourselves. If children grow up thinking that a meaningful life is all about the stuff they own or how they look, they are being set up for disappointment. Discontent is the fuel for consumerism. It keeps commerce alive; but it doesn't bring the happiness it promises.

Saint Paul said he had learned that the secret to being content is found in relationships, not things (Philippians 3:7,8). The most powerful antidote for discontent is our relationship with Jesus. You and I need to help our children see that God's love for them—as demonstrated in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—surpasses anything the world offers. It satisfies like nothing else can. Everything they have is an evidence of God's love. But it is up to

us to teach them to be thankful for and content with this outpouring of God's blessings.

My five-year-old is afraid to go into the basement or attic because he thinks there are monsters living there. How do I explain that no such monsters exist without undermining his faith in a Savior he cannot see?

In the imagination of a five-year-old, monsters may be very real. These fears diminish as children become more logical in their thinking. Over time, children conclude that there is no evidence of the monster's existence and they overcome their fear of the basement or attic. We can help them through these scary times with humor (using imaginary "monster spray," naming the monster, describing the monster in silly ways, or asking it funny questions) and by teaching the child how to address irrational fear.

On the other hand, the belief in Jesus is created at a child's baptism through the Holy Spirit's power. It has been nurtured through hearing the Word of God. As parents, you model God's truth and your faith in the Savior. Jesus comes alive for a five-year-old in the study of his birth, life, death, and resurrection. Understanding grows as faith grows. There is no room for fear when we know what Jesus has promised us.

I've heard that "MySpace" can be a dangerous place. But I don't understand why. Please explain it so that I can understand.

MySpace.com is an online community where people 14 and over can create a network of friends from all over the world. MySpace allows teens to create a profile to describe themselves, their hobbies and interests. They enjoy creating their page and communicating with many friends at the same time.

The danger with MySpace is that it is a public space where anyone who has a computer has access to information your son or daughter has posted. Your parental role is to monitor safe use of MySpace. Check to see that your teen isn't posting a phone number, address, instant message screen name, or their current whereabouts. Strangers may use this information to gain access to others they meet on the Internet. For example, posting a picture that shows a school uniform offers information that someone can use to locate your child at school.

MySpace automatically assigns 14- and 15-year-old's profiles as *private*, which lets only their invited *friends* view them. The rules for behavior online are the same as off-line. Don't go anywhere with a stranger. (Visit MySpace.com and find more parent tips and helpful information for managing safe use of MySpace.)

Into the Pit

Pam Holz

This past summer our family traveled to the Black Hills. While there, we had an opportunity to enjoy the majestic panorama of God's creation and delve into one of its great wonders: Wind Cave. It is the fourth longest cave in the world. My children and husband were excited. I smiled bravely and clung more tightly to the hand of my five-year-old. The idea of descending 24 stories beneath the earth's surface into a place completely devoid of all natural light didn't appeal to me. Not wanting to disappoint the family, I kept silent about my lack of enthusiasm. They didn't realize that I had been to such a place before.

Several years earlier, during what is normally a delightful time in a young family's life, I had been challenged to endure something even worse than an hour's descent into the belly of the earth. After delivering a healthy baby, I descended into a pit I hadn't realized existed. It was a cave within me that, prior to this time, had gone undiscovered. This cave became even scarier because I hadn't realized I was falling into it. And once there I didn't know how to get out.

As I sank deeper and deeper into darkness, I felt as if I were drowning. Even calling out to God seemed like it wasn't working. Maybe he couldn't hear me. If he could, why was I lost in this cave, deprived of his light?

It did not seem logical to slip into depression after one of the most exciting events in my life. I had just given birth to a beautiful, healthy baby. This was a blessing for which my husband and I had prayed. How could I be tumbling into such a pit of despair?

I did not realize that I was going through postpartum depression. I did

not realize that I needed to look for help. I had heard of the "baby blues," but not such overwhelming feelings of blackness. "Pray lots; be tough; deal with it." That was the advice I expected to hear, though I never actually talked with anyone about it. I was afraid I would be viewed as an incompetent mother and a failure. My pride wouldn't let me get past that.

My faith was challenged during those dark months. I questioned why God would allow such blackness to surround me. I was not ignorant of God's amazing love. All my life I had known my Savior, who gave his life for me, enduring the unimaginable darkness of being forsaken by his Father to win the world's salvation. And yet I doubted even he could find me in this pitch-blackness.

God delivered me from the gloom in a surprising way. I discovered I was pregnant again. In the combination of dread (Would I again suffer this blackness?) and excitement (A new blessing from God!), I was overwhelmed by the nausea and sheer exhaustion that accompanies the hormone surge of the first trimester. God literally brought me to my knees with persistent morning sickness. But my postpartum depression disappeared. And, thankfully, it did not return after the birth of this child.

It did come back though. I was blessed with another baby several years later and again found myself drowning. This time I approached my doctor, asking whether he gave any credence to postpartum depression.

With a resounding yes, he listened as I told him about my struggles. He explained that the best course of action was a low dosage of an antidepressant. I took the first pill before I left the parking lot.

The next day I began to have second thoughts. I called the doctor's office and explained to the nurse that I was a Christian and wasn't sure that taking this medicine was God pleasing. I told her, "The Bible says, 'Cast all your cares upon me,' not on Zoloft!"

The wise woman gently replied, "I am a Christian too. I know that God has blessed us with doctors who develop medicines to help us with our troubles."

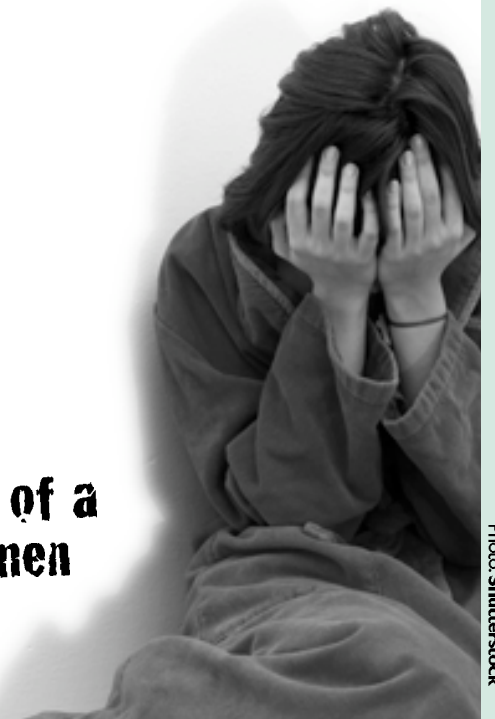
The medicine worked. It brought me back into the daylight of God's beautiful world. I was able to enjoy my babies. And I was able to thank God for my experience.

My own painful struggles made me aware of a condition that affects thousands of other women. Yet it frequently goes undiagnosed. I have a chance to be around a lot of young women who are about to become moms. Mentioning my struggle with postpartum depression, I invite them to talk with me if they need to. And I check on them often after their babies are born. Perhaps God will use me to help one of them out of the cave of darkness that is postpartum depression.

Pam Holz lives in Appleton, Wisconsin, where her husband is the pastor of Word of Life Lutheran Church. Her days are filled with the joy of their four children.



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Now What?

How to Prepare Children for the Death of a Loved One

Paula Sulzle

My dad was diagnosed with cancer in 1988. He told me there was nothing more the doctors could do for him; he was going to die soon. I remember thinking, *Now what?* None of my friends had ever experienced this. A person isn't supposed to lose a parent until later in life. I was too young to have to watch my father die. By God's grace, I had the comfort of knowing that he would be in heaven. Yet the pain and loneliness after his death were horrible.

As an adult I frequently think about how to prepare my children for the death of a loved one. Should I take them to their great-grandpa's funeral or leave them at home? What I should tell them when their baby-sitter's father suddenly dies? I am still asking the same question, *Now what?* Only now it is as a concerned parent, preparing her children for something they do not comprehend or anticipate.

God did not create us to die; he created us to live. If Adam and Eve had remained sinless, they would never have known death. After they sinned, God reiterated the consequences for their disobedience: "You [will] return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return" (Genesis 3:19).

Death is our enemy. It is repulsive because it is a constant reminder that we are sinful and deserve to be punished. The Bible says, "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Sin buried my dad, your nephew, your husband's grandma, a dear friend. It eventually buries everyone.

A difficult topic to discuss

Since death is so much a part of life, it is important for us to talk about it—even with our children.

It has been said that *death is no respecter of persons*. That's true even regarding survivors. Many children—some at a very early age—experience the death of a loved one. When it happens, adults can help them through the grieving process. But talking about death before it happens can help children begin to understand it before they have to face it in a personal way.

We have the unique privilege of teaching our children that death is the transition from this life of tears and heartache to the glory of heaven.

Discussing the topic in casual conversation or in a teachable moment can help children accept the reality of death when it occurs in their own family. This is especially true when the conversation keeps God's love in the center of the picture of a grieving family.

Children are often the *forgotten mourners*. Adults tend to shelter them from the harsh reality to spare them from the heartache associated with death. But children will grieve no matter what. Encouraging children to talk through their emotions can help them understand the feelings they're experiencing.

Children are usually observant and impressionable. Consider how a ten-

month-old touches your face and watches your lips move as you sing "Jesus Loves Me." Or marvel that a mere three-year-old, seeing a tear trickle down your cheek after a stressful day, will ask, "Why are you crying, Mommy?" Children notice a lot. Experts say that roughly 75 percent of the brain is developed by age 4. All that thinking and discovering raises important questions in their little minds. We need to be sure to answer them honestly and directly. Sometimes more than once. Children have a habit of repeating their questions so they can check for consistency in the answers they are given.

It is common for children to show anger when a loved one dies. Anger is not just a childish response to a loss; adults experience it as well. Children learn how to express their own anger by watching adults deal with this emotion. Rather than showing explosive behavior, an adult can talk calmly with a child to explain these feelings.

Loneliness, sadness, and fear are also normal emotions that accompany the death of a loved one. We can help by encouraging children to talk to a friend, seek comfort from a trusted counselor, look for Bible passages that reflect God's promises, and ask God for peace and strength.

More than 90 percent of a child's communication is nonverbal. Children may be grieving in ways that do not require spoken language. Children may exhibit a lack of feelings after hearing of a loved one's death. They may act out in aggressive behavior, stop eating, resist going to bed, become forgetful, or quit doing schoolwork. A caring adult will recognize that these behaviors are part of the grieving process.

Many experts suggest that, depending on a child's age and level of maturity, he or she be included in as much of the funeral planning as possible. Having children draw pictures to leave in the casket can help them express their love for the deceased. Their participation in this way can also provide a sense of belonging to the grieving community. Sometimes viewing the body (open casket) or seeing parents touch the body can help a child understand how death takes life from our bodies and changes them. It can also bring closure to some of the questions about death that tend to linger with a child. On the other hand, children should never be forced to look at or touch the body of a loved one against their will.

A lesson from Scripture

Jesus' reaction to the death of his friend Lazarus, recorded in John chapter 11, is instructive. He saw the friends and members of Lazarus' immediate family weeping. He was also moved to tears because Lazarus was dear to him. He joined in the grieving process, expressing his sorrow over the loss that the death of Lazarus would mean for those who loved him. But before he raised Lazarus from the dead, Jesus made use of the occasion to instruct and give comfort to those who needed it.

We have the unique privilege of teaching our children that death is the transition from this pathetic life to the glory of heaven. In fact, Jesus once called death a *sleep*. It is not the end; it's a beginning. He said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25,26).

I love that passage. In the weeks and months following my father's death, it gave me a comforting picture to think about. My dad's soul was living in heaven with Jesus—no more cancer, no more sin. When Jesus comes again, my father's soul and body will be united in complete perfection. And I will see my father again, alive!

Even at an early age, children can understand this truth. Though heaven is a place that can't be seen or touched, the Bible teaches us about such a special place. "In my Father's house are many rooms," said Jesus. "I will come back and

take you to be with me" (John 14:2,3). What a comforting promise! One that both adults and children can cling to together.

Know also that Jesus listens to our prayers in all situations. Teach your child to have the same kind of confidence in the power of prayer. God hears our cries of loss, pain, and loneliness. He has compassion.

Now what? The answer is that Jesus does not give us more grief than we can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13). In Romans 8:28, we read, "In all things God works for the good of those who love him." Even when death is tragic, God comforts us with his promises. He is with us, strengthening us, blessing us, loving us. God provides the healing we need.

He never abandons us or forgets us. He loves us too much to ever do that.

Sources

A Child's View of Grief and Helping Children Cope With Grief, by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D., and an interview with Ken Kirk, Christian funeral director at Kirk Funeral Home, Rapid City, South Dakota.

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Illustration: Chloé Volden, age 9, grade 4

Viewpoint

Test Drive the Family Dinner Table

While watching television the other day, I saw a commercial for the new Dodge minivan. Maybe you've seen it?

It's the one showing the swanky swivel seats and the little table mounted in the back. The TV family seems happy playing games and eating snacks while tooling around town in their new ride. Apparently the advertisers want us to believe their newly designed interior is the answer to any busy family's need for together time. I'm not in the market for a new minivan right now, but the commercial did strike a chord. I believe our families need a vehicle to bring us back together, but it's not parked in the garage. The fine art of conversation is the vehicle to family unity, and all that's needed is a dining room table.

If your family's schedule is like most, spare time is in very short supply. To keep up the hectic pace of their lives, many families have sacrificed the home-cooked family dinner for a quick take-out. It's a shame because dinner together is one way to meet our children's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. The family dinner is a wonderful vehicle for instilling Christian values in our children. Breaking bread together allows parents, children, and siblings to share the details of their lives and strengthen their bonds as a family. How was your day at work? How did you do on your math test? What are your plans for the weekend? These exchanges facilitate productive communication and allow us to build a rapport with our children. As we travel the road of life and our children grow, providing a spiritual direction becomes a greater challenge for parents. By establishing regular dinner conversations with our kids at an early age, we will all be better equipped to maintain communications throughout their teen years.

Jesus knew the value of the supper table. He was reclining at a supper table

Jonathan Johnson

when he used his parables to instruct Simon the Leper and an unknown Pharisee. He was at the table with Lazarus when he acknowledged Mary for washing his feet. Before his death, he used his remaining time around a supper table to instruct his disciples on how to carry on his ministry without him.

Being teachers to our children, we should model Jesus and use our supper table as a vehicle to instruct them. After delivering the Ten Commandments to the Israelites, Moses commanded parents to teach their children to love God. He said, "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon

your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Deuteronomy 6:6,7).

The way to ensure that our children will grow up loving God is by teaching them within the context of our daily lives. Eating dinner is a daily occurrence. We all have to eat. So why not take full advantage of that and gather the family around the table for some home cooking and meaningful conversation? Unlike that brand new minivan, your dining room table is already paid for. It has probably depreciated in worldly value, and it may even have a few dings and scratches, but if you can use that table as a vehicle to engage your children in the fine art of conversation, the spiritual dividends will pay off for the rest of their lives.

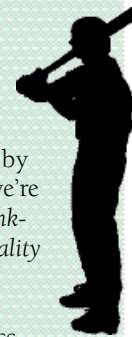
Jonathan Johnson, his wife, Kelly, and their two daughters, Clarissa and Anna, are members of St. John Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.



OUR family MATTERS

Summer Vacation Syndrome

Ray Schumacher



Parents look forward to the end of the school year. Then by the second day of vacation, we're all wondering, *What was I thinking?* The much anticipated *quality time* together degenerates into quelling sibling arguments, answering complaints, addressing boredom, and administering discipline. By the end of week one most of us can be overheard muttering, "These kids are driving me crazy."

Still, summer vacation is a great time to think about two things:

1. The awesome truth that every child is a blessing; and
2. Nothing is more important than bringing our children to Jesus.

God has entrusted our children to our care so that we can serve as witnesses to his redeeming love for us and them. We can mentor our kids by demonstrating our love for God. We can lead them to trust that God is always with them. We can show them that their greatest treasure is one found in an empty tomb.

But summer is also a good time for us to avoid Satan's trap of focusing too much attention on our own lives. When God gives us children, he entrusts us with an opportunity to do something that really matters—to reflect the love of Jesus to our children. If we remember that, we can look at the selfish demands of our children, their sibling confrontations, and their attempts to check boundaries as opportunities to teach them and to reflect Jesus to them.

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A closer look at GOD-PLEASING DECISION MAKING

Benjamin Berger

Decisions, decisions. We all have too many choices to make every day. Should I play with Elmo or the baby doll? Should I eat this or spit it back at Dad? Should I sleep or cry? Oh, I'm sorry; I'm sure most of you are dealing with much bigger choices.

The importance and effect of our choices grow with age, don't they? Which girl will I take to prom? Will I go to college? Do we want more children? Should I look for a new job? Can we afford a new house? What's the best way to raise our children?

We struggle with decisions about the clothes we wear, the food we eat, and the activities we do. We should give thought to how we spend our time, our money, our talents, and even ourselves. And don't forget that we also choose our attitudes: whether or not to forgive, how to treat others, how to react to the way others treat us. We have a lot of choices to make.

As Christians, and as Christian parents, how do we make God-pleasing choices? And how do we teach our children to make God-pleasing choices as well?

The first thing we may need to recognize is that adults and children alike naturally make selfish choices. Our sinful nature cares first and foremost about *self*. We'll typically choose whatever makes us happy—whatever makes us feel good or makes us look better. Making me-first choices is usually a surefire way to anger our holy God and others around us.

Instead, we can think first of our God, then others, and lastly of ourselves. (A simple acronym, JOY, can help you remember God's way of prioritizing your choices: Jesus, Others, You). Often the decisions we make affect our personal relationship with God, our relationships with others, and others' relationships with God.

When we consider those relationships, we are more likely to give glory to God and show love to others before ourselves.

Let's use choice of clothing as an example. I could ask myself, "Will my clothes glorify God by treating my body with respect? Or will they tempt others to lust?" Or what career should I choose? I could think, "Will that career serve

you would live. And he planned to send a Savior from your sin. Every day God chooses to forgive you anew because his Son chose to die on the cross.

God has already chosen you to be his child and, therefore, an heir of heaven. He has already chosen the very date and time he will bring you home to heaven.

We love others because God first loved us. We show our love for the people in our lives by the choices we make. And we can pass on God's love to our children by teaching them to also make God-pleasing choices to serve God and others before serving themselves.

The best way to teach a child anything is to model it. It's a good starting point. Let your children see not only the choices you make, but also let them know the reason you have for making those choices. Choose wisely now; your children are watching.

You can also teach your children to make God-pleasing choices by guiding them through the process. Help them recognize the choices they have. Ask them to identify the love or the selfishness in the direction they choose to take. Cause them to consider who will benefit most from one choice or another. Remind them of all the choices God made and continues to make for their benefit.

Finally, remember that as children of God we have many God-pleasing choices before us. What joy we will find by choosing those options that both give glory to God and show love to others!

Benjamin Berger serves as pastor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Appleton, Wisconsin, where he lives with his wife, Heather, and their one-year-old daughter, Eliana.

THE QUESTION IS THIS: HOW DO WE MAKE GOD-PLEASING CHOICES? AND HOW DO WE TEACH OUR CHILDREN TO MAKE THEM AS WELL?


others or just make a lot of money for me?" The apostle Paul encourages us to do everything to God's glory, even eating and drinking. Jesus wants us to love one another at all times. When we place Jesus and others first, we'll make God-pleasing choices.


Why would we even want to put Jesus and others before ourselves? Can you remember the choices that God has made on our behalf? Even before creation, God chose to create you—in the words of the Bible, to knit you personally in your mother's womb. He determined the exact time and place





“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, and I will make you fishers of men.”





 Fishermen know the importance of silence. You can show God’s love not only by talking but also by being a good listener.


 You may think that you don’t have the gifts or talents that it takes to tell others about Christ. But look what Jesus said to the disciples, “I will make you fishers of men.”


 Your “tackle box” should include the times and locations of church activities. That way when you have the opportunity to invite someone to attend church, you’ll have the information you need.


 People who enjoy fishing can’t stop talking about it. If there is something at church that you really enjoy, from a praise band to a fun teen outing, tell others.

 A fisherman goes where he’ll find fish. Make a list of places where you come in contact with people who don’t know about Jesus.

 Fishermen often have to throw back fish that are too small. God, though, tells us he wants *all* people to be saved, from the little kid on your baseball team to the family next door.

 Just as it is fun to go fishing with a friend, you may feel more comfortable talking about your faith with someone else there to support you.

 Don’t be discouraged if you don’t catch anything. Who knows what effect your words may have on someone weeks, months, or even years from now?

 Sometimes fishermen argue about the best bait or technique. Rather than attacking another person’s beliefs, let people hear the good news that you have to share.



Cartoon: Ed Koehler

“But, Mom, I Hate Change!”

Parents & Crosslink

DEAR READER,

Today’s parents learn from each other, sharing ideas and encouraging one another to meet the daily challenges of living in an increasingly godless society. In the context of the gospel, this is a very powerful dynamic. *Parents Crosslink* (PCL) is a response to the demand for an interactive approach to assisting parents with a biblical view of family. Please join our ongoing conversation about Christian parenting at the PCL Web site located at www.parentscrosslink.net.

Kenneth Kremer, PCL Editor

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