



Whose Child Is This?

by Rev. Cynthia A. Burns

The World's largest Sunday School founder **Bill Wilson** shared the following experience he had about the children he picked up in a yellow bus, from the gang infested, poverty-stricken streets of Brooklyn, New York. Bill Wilson wanted to give them a hope and a future. When Bill felt like quitting, **He ask himself a simple question**, "*Whose child is this*"? His response – "*Mine*". This is a question every Christian and human being should be asking themselves today. *Are we making a difference in the lives of those needing hope?*

In a society like ours, in which the educational and political system wants to create a generation of confused, hurting, and Godless people; we as parents and children of God must stand up for the standards that God states in His word. Christians cannot stand on the sidelines and decide they do not want to hurt someone's feelings or walk out of love towards some person or group.

I heard a story about a man who knew a bridge was out up ahead on the road and to prevent people from falling into the river below and dying, the man stood outside and screamed at the cars passing him, waving his arms like a maniac trying to warn them of the destruction ahead. Many of the drivers would blow their horn at him, screaming at him to get out of the way, only to fall to their deaths. I ask you, **which actions reveals true love for**

others, trying to prevent destruction or letting them run off the bridge and dying?

Parents, ministers and teachers, we need not to abdicate our responsibility and instruction from the Lord for the little lives He has entrusted to us. The Bible is clear about our responsibility to our children and grandchildren.

“Only pay attention and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your grandchildren [impressing these things on their mind and penetrating their heart with these truths]”
Deuteronomy 4:9 (AMP).

“Tell your children about it, And let your children tell their children, And the children of the next generation”. Joel 1:3 (AMP).

“As for parents, don’t provoke your children to anger, but raise them with discipline and instruction about the Lord. Ephesians 6:4 (CEB).

I have found in my 35 years of pastoral ministry, that children’s church is a time to instill within children *how much their heavenly Father loves them and truly has a plan and purpose for their lives*. **Children’s church is the time that love, hugs, kindness, caring, and the reflection of who Jesus really is, should be on display in abundance.** For some this may be the only time in the week that a child will experience such heart felt emotions and come to understand that their Daddy God truly loves them. This may be different from what they experience at home and in the educational systems.

Social media is full of teachers in kindergarten and elementary schools screaming from the rooftop how they are trying to indoctrinate and confuse children by telling them lies about who and what they were created by God to be. There is a world today scoffing at the God of the universe as if He has no importance in this culture. The culture says there are many genders, yet God states He created male and female **(Genesis 1:27)**.

The culture states that **whatever your emotions and mind want to think is ok;** when God says, *bring your thoughts and your will into captivity to the*

obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). There are Christians and even ministers who say they are preaching the gospel, yet these same people are creating a god in the image and form that they desire and a god in which they think the world will accept.

The Bible in **Deuteronomy 5:6** is clear that ***we should have no other gods before Him*** (KJV). When did Christian parents and the church begin to believe that they need to cater to the world's way of thinking to win people to Christ?

Statistics from Ministry -To-Children found 5 key elements for the importance of children's ministry;

1. Childhood is when most people receive Jesus as Lord & Savior
2. Parents have the most impact in their children's lives
3. Children's ministry matters and makes a significant difference
4. We serve because Jesus loves kids
5. We need one another (Krummer).

Tony Krummer found that 2/3 of Christians came to Christ before the age of 18 and 43% came before the age of 12. Researchers have stated that childhood is the time when people are most open to Christ. The study found that 50% of children are led to Christ by their parents and 24% by another family member.

Parents, as you attend a bible based, Holy Spirit empowered church, you will find that you are equipped by God to shepherd your child in this morally confused culture they are facing today. Children need their parents to help guide them. The role of the parents does not mean that Children's church is not important, on the contrary, the two combined together make an excellent team to a child. **Krummer's study found that 55% of children were impacted by children's ministry, its leader, and Christian friends.** That's a great impact!

In fact, **86% of ministry leaders today stated that they attended Sunday School and 59% said they went to Vacation Bible School.** Parents, a bible believing Children's Church matters. The motivation for having Children's Church was overwhelming...**WHY...because Jesus loves kids (86%).** What a great atmosphere to offer any child.

Parents and Ministers should realize that 2/3 of our children's workers are unpaid volunteers. They are doing it because they love children. They want to see them have an impactful relationship with Jesus throughout their entire life. ***What a joy it is to have a team that will partner with parents in creating a love for Jesus and a biblical standard to live by in every stage of life.***

Parents, Ministers, Churches, we need to rise and declare what God speaks with boldness and love; even screaming at the top of our lungs to our children and grandchildren, ***"do not go over the cliff, destruction is ahead"***.

Let every child know that there is a true heavenly Father who loves them immensely and who has a wonderful, righteous plan for their lives. We need to be indoctrinating children with the truth of God's word and revealing His characteristics to them. ***Let me say this to all parents, children's church is not a substitute for their training at home.*** Children's church should be an extension and supplement of what you, as the parents, are teaching at home.

Remember, that children's church and Sunday schools, are places that some children will only ever experience the love that Jesus has for them. **So, parents, teach them the word and bring your children to church to reinforce the standards which their Heavenly Father has ordained.**

(If this article has been an encouragement to you or you have questions or comments, please send them by email to mjbcjf@gmail.com. Be sure and visit our website at www.mjbministries.org for more helpful information that will strengthen you in your faith. We are asking for people just like you to partner with MJB Ministries as our monthly Prayer and Giving Partners. Visit www.mjbministries.org/giving today!)