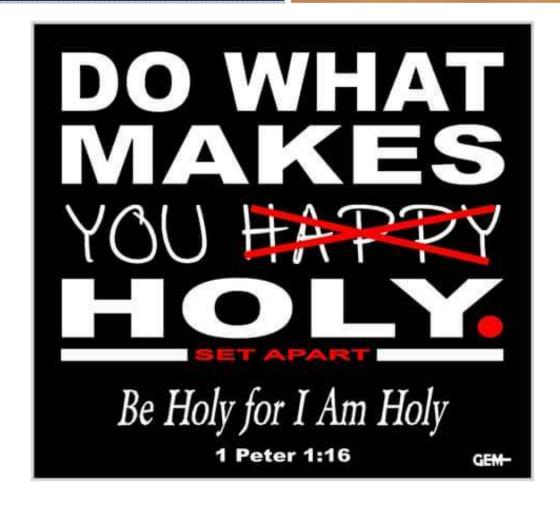
Today's Sermons

Morning: God Hates Divorce Evening: Studies in Ephesians: For This Cause

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Minister:

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Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am AM Worship:...11:00am PM Worship:...6:00pm 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
Bible Study:....7:00pm

Radio Program
Sunday:......7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WKSK
93.5 FM

We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!

Children: Will Yours Go To Heaven?

Daniel Whitworth

Elders all over the nation are concerned about the dropout rate of our young people. It is a tragic thing to see these precious boys and girls who are so thrilled with Bible study as little people, grow cold and uninterested in the Lord's work as they grow older. Several congregations have made in-depth studies of all the factors available concerning all their young people, with an eye to learning what might be done to help solve this problem. What do we need? More youth programs? More youth rallies? A special teacher?

From the material that has been published on these studies, it seems to me that one great central truth has begun to emerge. Faithfulness of the young person to Jesus doesn't have anything to do with special programs or teachers. It is not dependent on whether they are members of a large congregation or a small one. The single most important value is their own immediate family.

One congregation found that where both parents were faithful to the Lord. 93% of the kids remained faithful. On the other hand, if only one of the parents was faithful, that figure dropped to 73%. Where the parents were only what we call reasonably active in the Lord's work, only 53% of the young people maintained their faith.

Now, here comes the shocker. In those cases where both parents attended only infrequently, the percentage of the children who remained faithful to the Lord dropped to 6%.

Do you want your children to go to heaven? Make sure you are leading them by your faithful example.

Symptoms & Treatments For Spiritual Illness?Selected

Sometimes those who should be healthy, happy, productive Christians find themselves suffering from symptoms that indicate something is wrong in their spiritual lives. The following symptoms tell us that we need help to correct problems and misunderstandings in our Christian life.

- Depression.
- A compulsion to prove we are faithful servants.
- An ongoing feeling of guilt and shame.
- A feeling that we are never doing enough for God.
- Low self-esteem or sense of worth.
- Hating oneself.
- A critical spirit towards self and others.
- Fatigue, especially when it comes to attending services and classes and participating in the activities of the church.
- Insecurity.
- Jealousy toward others for their success, their happy families, etc.
- Resentment or anger, bitterness or rage toward others, even toward God and Christian leaders.

Helpful Suggestions For Spiritual Healing:

- Take an honest inventory of your spiritual life (I Cor. 11:28).
- Be sure to count the blessings God has bestowed upon you.
- Spend time alone with God in prayer, meditation, reading of Scripture and introspection.
- Confess, openly, fully and without reservation any sins you recognize in your life...past and present (I John :9).
- Follow this up with words of confession and reconciliation with anyone with whom you have been at odds. Even if they are clearly at fault, it will do you good to purge your soul of anger and resentment toward them. Apologize if you are at fault. If not, at least let them know you want to be on cordial terms if at all possible. Whatever, refuse to harbor any ill will or anger towards them (Matt. 5:22-23).

- Make yourself get fully involved in church, attending all the services and participating in all the classes you can. Loneliness is a breeding ground for many spiritual ills. In the church we find friends and fellowship that will help us as we struggle with the burdens of life (Gal. 6:1-2). Loving Christians will help us get back on our feet when we are in the ditch of despair.
- Look for opportunities to help those less fortunate than you. Even if you have no funds to share, you can give you time and concern to those who are struggling to survive. Often in such efforts we see just how small our problems are. There is joy and satisfaction in assisting others with their burdens.
- When you awake, begin your day with serious prayer, asking God for help for the day's task. Along the way pray when the pressures mount or the temptations are sore. Ask for wisdom in the decisions you must make. Express your thanks for the food you enjoy. When at last you retire for sleep let your closing thoughts be in conversation with God, thanking him for the blessings he has bestowed.

Never forget that "the kingdom of God is ...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 14:17). Jesus wants you to have life, and have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:14-17).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Oct 9 Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Oct 30 Song Service
- ➤ Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell