

## SHOULD WE LET THE KIDS "DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES?"

Greg Gwin

Occasionally we hear parents who say that they don't want to force religion on their children. These misguided folks think they are doing their kids a favor by letting them "decide for themselves". They're afraid that there will be some resentment in the children later if religion has been "crammed down their throats."

If we may be absolutely blunt in response, that is one of the most ridiculous ideas anyone ever suggested! We force many things on our children. We insist that they bathe, brush their teeth, change their clothes, etc. We "cram" education down their throats by making them attend school regularly. We demand that they do their homework. We force them to eat good food, get adequate rest, and do other things that are important to their health and development. We do all of this because we know it is in their best interest. And, we do it even when the kids don't like it. Why is it that this common sense approach is neglected by parents who are determined to "let the kids decide for themselves" when it comes to religion?

Dr. James Dobson writes: "There is a critical period when certain kinds of instruction are easier in the life of children. There is a brief period during childhood when youngsters are vulnerable to religious training. Their concepts of right and wrong are formulated during this time, and their view of God begins to solidify. The opportunity of that period must be seized when it is available. The absence or misapplication of instruction through that prime-time period may place a severe limitation on the depth of the child's later devotion to God. When parents withhold indoctrination from their small children, allowing them to "decide for themselves," the adults are almost guaranteeing that their youngsters will "decide" in the negative."

God's word has always taught us the truth on this subject: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). -

### The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



## COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00  
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

- [www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- Men's Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evenings following services.



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." - Acts 17:11

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## FAITHFULNESS

Michael Pickford

Faithfulness is the idea of remaining true to the Lord; to believe in Him and follow His teaching throughout life. Let us learn from the Bible about faithfulness...

**Taught by The Lord.** "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). Unless someone believes that a person who is unfit for the kingdom of God is going to heaven, Jesus requires faithfulness.

**Exemplified By Acts 2 Converts.** The thousands converted in Acts chapter 2, "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." The apostles' doctrine is that given to them by the Lord Jesus Through the Spirit (Jn. 16:13-14). To deny this doctrine is to lose fellowship with God (2 John 9). These continued steadfastly in it. Faithfulness!

**Part of The Fruit of The Spirit.** The fruit of the Spirit is essential in being led by the Spirit, and walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16, 25), both necessary for eternal life. Within the fruit of the Spirit, we find "Faithfulness" (Gal. 5:22).

**Lack of It Results In Condemnation.** Peter spoke of some who had, "Escaped the pollutions of the world," and had, "known the way of righteousness" (2 Peter 2:20-22). A reading of these verses reveals that when one ceases to be faithful by being "entangled in" and "overcome" by the pollutions of the world, they're actually worse off than if they had ever known the truth." It is possible to "drift away" and "neglect our salvation" (Hebrews 2:1-3). Neglecting our salvation is the same as losing it. One can "Fall from grace" (Gal. 5:4), "fall" (1 Cor 10:12), "fall from your own steadfastness" (2 Pet 3:17), wander from the truth (Jms 5:19), depart from the living God (Heb 3:12), and be "disqualified" (1 Cor 9:27). Don't be deceived!

**Required Even When Life Is In Jeopardy.** Jesus warned His apostles of scenarios in which their very life would be threatened because of their faithfulness. Even in these situations, Jesus warned, "Whoever denies me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 10:28, 33).

**God Has Supplied For Our Faithfulness.** To give us strength to remain faithful, God has given us His word (Acts 20:32), Prayer (Mtt 6:13; Php 4:6-7), our brethren (Heb 3:12-15), and the promise of heaven (2 Cor 4:16-18; Titus 1:1-2).

**Results In The Crown of Life.** The Lord promised, "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev 2:10). The one who endures temptation will receive "The crown of life" (Jms 1:12). Be faithful! 🔍

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# REASONS TO DISCIPLINE OUR CHILDREN

Bob Hines

A scanning of Solomon's Proverbs provides several reasons. . .

1. To show you don't hate them. "He who spares the rod hates his son but he who loves him is careful to discipline him." (13:24)
2. To give them hope: "Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death." (19:18)
3. To help them for a lifetime: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." (22:6)
4. To chase away foolishness: "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him." (22:15)
5. To save his soul: "Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death." (23:13-14)
6. For your own comfort: "Discipline your son and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul." (29:17)

Parents need to read and understand these passages. So, too, should our children. We want them to see why for their own good, and for the good of their children as well. -

## With All My Heart!

We should give our "Whole Heart" to God...

- In Love: Deut 6:5; 30:2; Mtt 22:37
- In Obedience: Psalm 119:2; Psalm 119:34; Rom. 6:17, 1-5
- In Trust: Proverbs 3:5-6
- In Prayer: Jeremiah 29:13; James 1:2-8
- In Belief: Acts 8:37-38; Romans 10:9-10
- In Repentance: Joel 2:12; Acts 17:30
- In Worship: Psalm 9:1; Psalm 111:1; Ephesians 5:18-19

MP

## SERMON NOTES

Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

### DUTY LIST...

#### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Eli Todd  
Reading: Matthew 6:9-15
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....John Nelson  
Serve.....Michael Pickford  
Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

#### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table.....Tony Jenkins

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Eli Todd
- Invitation.....Kenny Johnson

**Thank You For Serving!**

### GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;  
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

**Obey Today!**

*Home Bible Studies  
Available Upon Request!*