

2 *The Devaluing of Children*

Today, our culture devalues marriage and even life itself, forgetting the truth that children and their upbringing are one of the greatest responsibilities and privileges of adult life. Psalm 127:3 states, “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward.” (NKJV) God gave the gift of sex for husbands and wives to enjoy one another, *but He also gave this gift to produce the next generation.* Once you begin to separate sex from the marriage bond, and from procreation within that bond, you begin to lose sight of the Creator’s original purpose for physical union. Tragically, you also devalue the product of that union.

As Scripture makes clear, God intended the home to have both a loving mother and father, so that it would become a safe place for children to grow up and become godly, well-rounded people. If children are a “heritage from the LORD” as Psalm 127:3 declares, they are also *His* heritage. As we mentioned before, Jesus declared regarding little children in Matthew 19:14 that “the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Yet, in our society today, more and more children are aborted, exposed to abuse, loneliness, abandonment, gangs, drug abuse,

broken homes, suicide, sex trafficking, and even pedophilia.

It was not always thus in America. A professor of child development at Tufts University, David Elkind, described the vast change in our culture:

Up until the 1950's, we placed the needs of children and adolescents ahead of the needs of parents, and children flourished.... From the 1960's on, we have put the needs of children and adolescents beneath the needs of adults and parents. The outcome is a lot of stress.¹

A *Wall Street Journal* editorial said the same thing about fifteen years ago and noted that our society is paying a very high price for adults' failure to sacrifice themselves for their children. One consequence can be clearly seen in the attitude of an art teacher I used to know towards his own children: "When my children were little, they wanted me. Now that they are older, they want nothing to do with me." And he, as he at least expressed outwardly, wanted nothing to do with them either. How far we have fallen today, from viewing children as a "blessing from the Lord" to viewing them as inconvenient burdens many of us would rather do without!

Given the level of private and public immorality in our nation today, including the devaluation of even marriage itself, many of us are deeply concerned

that judgment cannot be far behind, and that it may actually have already begun. As Charles H. Spurgeon pointed out, the most fearful judgment of all is not when God sends forceful, visible punishments, but when He quietly slips away and people do not even realize that He is gone!² “Then the glory of the LORD departed from over the threshold of the temple...” (Ezekiel 10:18), and who in Israel realized that the Spirit had left?

We who love the Lord need to pray over the verses from Isaiah 26 that we mentioned at the beginning of this chapter:

Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your
laws, we wait for you;
your name and renown are the desire of
our hearts.
My soul yearns for you in the night; in
the morning my spirit longs for you.
When your judgments come upon the
earth, the people of the world learn
righteousness.
(Isaiah 26:7-9, emphasis added)

We may think that, though our nation is slipping away, we Christians are doing just fine. At least *we* will escape judgment! Like the survivors safely ensconced in the Titanic’s lifeboats, we are so happy to be dry and safe that we are unwilling to risk going back to rescue those who are still drowning in the icy