**September 23, 2018 “Children Obey Your Parents” Ephesians 6:1-3**

**Part 1**

There are several things that I watched on television in the last month or so that have awakened me to the condition of our society in general. Two stood out in particular.

The first one was an interview with a race car driver named Dale Earnhardt Jr. He is the son of one of the most famous race car drives in the NASCAR circuit. Jr. was asked what it was like to grow up with such a famous driver for a father. His answers were quite interesting. He said that he really never knew his father very well as he, the father, was always off somewhere racing or otherwise involved in promoting his racing career. The culmination of the loneliness or sadness in sons’ heart was revealed in his telling of his high school graduation. He, the son, said, “I went to the graduation, put on my gown, walked across the stage, took off my gown and went home”. He told how his father never once went to one of his baseball games or any other of his school activities. I wonder how many kids experience that same scenario on a daily basis in our society.

The second incident that is taking place right before our eyes is this so-called hearing on the competency of Judge Kavanaugh’s qualification to be our next Supreme Court Justice. Many Senators have refused to even meet the man and have vociferously opposed this person not because of his judicial qualifications but rather because someday he may rule against the “right to kill our children”. The rhetoric of these so-called leaders was so vile that the Judge’s children had to leave the room where the hearing was held and not one of those individuals who were spewing this sewage were ashamed of themselves. So that answer to our ills as a society is clearly not going to be found in politics.

Shootings in Chicago have become so common place that it is just a given that 150 people or so are shot every week in that city and that does not take into account all the other violent acts that occur throughout the country on a daily basis. Many are clamoring for gun control as an end to violence but in the famous words of Archie Bunker, “Would you feel any better if they were thrown out of windows?”

Our public education system is trying to educate our children without any influence of the Word of God which has left that institution floundering on the sea of political correctness which does not allow for any correcting. If you think you are gay, that’s OK; if you think you want to use the girl’s bathroom or locker room that’s OK, if you are sad or depressed or think you are sad or depressed… take these pills which will turn you into a zombie but at least you won’t feel anything.

So, what are we to do?

Over the last month we have been studying the role of the wife within the home and the role of the father within the home which is a recipe for success, if it is followed, regardless of the society in which that home may find itself. But what about the children? What are parents supposed to do in this crazy society in which we live?

Ephesians 6: 1-3

1. Children obey your parents
   1. Honor your father and mother
      1. The reason
      2. So it may go well with you
      3. Proverbs 22:6
         1. What this is saying is this
         2. Not a guarantee of success…
         3. The way you train your child is the adult they will become
2. Children
   1. They are a blessing from God
      1. They are not perfect
      2. They have been born with a sin nature… a curse
         1. They are
            1. Utterly selfish… don’t care where you are or what you are doing
            2. They want what they want and they want it now
      3. Watch parents with small children
         1. What is the word used most of the time with children?
         2. No! No! No!
         3. Why not Yes, Yes, Yes?
         4. Why do they have to be taught to obey?
            1. Do you know how we all learned to obey?
            2. Through painful lessons…

You can’t mean that…

America, we spend more money on toys than the gross national product of more than 60 countries

What is it our kids want? MORE…

* 1. II Timothy 3:2
     1. What follows “disobedient to parents”?
        1. Ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips (cyber bullying) without self-control (2008 study in Chicago showed 40% of teens have some form of STD) brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure
     2. Note the word “unloving”
        1. Greek “a-stor-gos”
           1. Without family love

In our society today, what promotes family?

Homosexual agenda?

Feminist agenda?

The abortion industry?

Entertainment industry?

Education industry?

Church?

* + 1. Axiom… “what strengthens the family, strengthens society”

Next week we are going to examine what God has to say which will strengthen all our families.