

The Reason Why Children Rebel, Dress Immodestly, and Leave the Church

You read that right. “THE Reason Why.” One. Singular. Uno. I know what you’re probably thinking too. We’ve got articles, podcasts, blogs without number, and volumes of books dedicated to answering these topics and this writer thinks he can boil it all down to ONE reason. Well...yeah.

“Who is this guy?” you might be wondering. Me? I’m a nobody, a regular guy with a regular blog, and a regular Bible. I’m not a scholar, not a theologian and I may or may not be in a little over my head here, but I believe by opening our Bibles we can easily see the solution to these problems that have plagued writers, preachers, and teachers for several millennia.

So where do we turn our Bibles to find this solution? Which verse houses this sacred secret? It’s not in any one place. You can find the solution all over the pages of Scripture really. Here it is in the Old Testament:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” (Deut. 6:5-7)

And again:

“You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” (Deut. 11:18-19)

And again:

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Prov. 22:6)

The New Testament has it as well:

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” (Eph. 6:4)

The solution is literally everywhere sitting in the pages of our Bibles, crying out to us when someone asks “why are my kids leaving the church?” We’ve spent so much time writing and researching that we’ve forgotten to get God’s input on the subject. God answered our problems long (read: thousands of years) ago. In a word the solution is simply **family**.

THE FATHER KNOWS BEST

That's the big solution? Seriously? Yeah seriously, that's it...well kind of. If I asked you right now to make a list naming kids, from church-going families, who have left the church you could certainly, probably very easily, do it. A church-going family isn't enough, and it's also not the solution we've been given in Scripture.

In the verses above we have some very important, very key words that God gives when it comes to raising children. When it comes to family God is very clear that we are responsible for their growth. That we are expected to **teach**.

Here's the problem. We've told ourselves that as long as we're going to a nice church that our children will grow up to be God-fearing, spiritual giants capable of conquering the armies of cultural influence without being winded in the slightest. And over the past several decades we've found out that we're wrong. Dead wrong.

Our problem isn't "uncool" worship or lack of fun activities. Our problem are parents who expect the church, in only three hours a week (sometimes less), to counteract the cultural garbage their children are fed for hours and hours on end. It can't be done. It's not because our ministers are incompetent or because God's gospel has lost power. It's because **no one can grow spiritually while on a steady diet of godlessness**. Our children have a feast of godlessness set before them every day in the world that they live in and the spiritual snacks they receive for a couple hours on Sundays just don't cut it. Our children need to see more Scripture. They need to be taught about God. They need to hear about Christ more often than our "next appointed time."

If we want to quit losing our kids. If we want them to act better, dress better and stay in the church we have to be the kind of families that teach and train their children. We have to be the kind of families that allow Christ in their home, that have Scriptures on the walls and have open conversation about God, the church and Scripture. We've got to be families that pray at every moment. Families that sit down together at the kitchen table together for a spiritual feast of worship. Families that consult God before every action and decision. The family that worships together stays together. The house whose walls echo the name of Christ result in children who lead, not leave, the church. It's certainly not easy, but it's the only way that works.

I'm not a parent yet, but I pray that I'll be the kind of father to my son that my parents were to me. I pray that all parents will be the type of parents who take their children to church and teach them about Christ continually. We don't need ministries, programs, and events for our children to be more Christ-like, we need involved, faithful families.

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