

Eisenhower Church of Christ

When My Children are Unfaithful

Nothing troubles a Christian parent more than having an adult child who is not faithful to the Lord. This is especially true for preachers, who have a tendency to perfectionism or at least the appearance of such because of their role as the face of the local church. I cannot tell you how many preachers I have known or heard of through the years who have grieved privately and publicly over a lack of faithfulness on the part of their children.

There are four ways a child may be considered unfaithful. Children are unfaithful: 1) when they have never obeyed the Gospel; 2) when they have forsaken the Lord and His church and have returned to the world; 3) when they have forsaken the Lord for a man-made religious body; or 4) when they are not working with and fully vested in a faithful congregation.

The following are some of the struggles of parents who have unfaithful children. When my children are unfaithful...

It makes me question my parenting. (And, they may see and be heartbroken wherein they failed their children, TJH). Parents of unfaithful children are haunted by Proverbs 22:6, ***“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.”*** Even when one knows that the Proverbs are simply truisms and not hard statements of fact, parents of unfaithful children will punish themselves with this text. Also troubling is Psalm 127:4, ***“Like arrows in the hands of a mighty warrior, so are the children of one’s youth.”*** While there is certainly much evidence to show that our children are what we make them, misusing or misapplying these texts bellies other truths.

For example, Abraham was one of the all-time great Bible characters and he produced Ishmael. Mary and Joseph were chosen to bear and raise the very Son of God, yet their other children did not recognize the inherent goodness of Jesus (cf. Mark 3:20-21; John 7:1-5). Adams and Eve, the very first children of God Himself, fell into rebellion and were never again mentioned favorably. Parents who have tried to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord should not forget that our offspring are free moral agents and as such may make choices that are inconsistent with or contrary to their upbringing.

It makes me worry about my grandchildren or future grandchildren. Here is the thinking, “If I tried to raise my kids right, taking them to church, etc., what will the end be for my grandchildren. Proverbs 17:6 says, ***“Children’s children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is the father.”*** We are always proud of our grandchildren, but the thought of them not receiving proper religious training and instruction sits like a lump in the pit of one’s stomach. For grandparents who live close enough to try and bridge the gap, there is some degree of relief as one makes every effort to provide the missing pieces. For the rest, there is only the hope that one’s children will return to the Lord in time to teach their children in the way of righteousness.

It overshadows any and all other personal accomplishments. One may excel at his job, his hobby or other activity, receiving the praise and accolades of men, but in the time of quiet repose the mind always returns to one’s children. The questions come as a flood: “Do they not realize the danger of their situation?” “Do they ever stop to think about their souls?” “Have they even a clue of the worry and anguish they are causing?” “Have they forgotten all I have done for them?” “Have they ever considered how disrespectful their lifestyle is to me?” And on it goes until distraction or sleep finally arrives to rescue me from my inner conversations.

Despite all these things, when my children are unfaithful, it does not diminish my love for

them. Conversely, in light of these same things, one must be on guard not to make excuses for our shortcomings or those of our children. One must wisely choose his opportunities to speak a word of encouragement or exhortation while continuing to pray that these will come to their senses and return to their Lord (2 Timothy 2:24-26).

—Todd Clippard

Sympathy

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of **Jevin Kyler Tucker**, who passed away on Wednesday, September 5th in Lubbock from a horse accident. His Memorial Service was held on Thursday, September 13th in Odessa. Jevin was the 11 year old son of Eddie Tucker Jr. and grandson of Eddie & Connie Tucker of Odessa. The Tuckers were members of Eisenhower a few years back. Please keep this family in your prayers during this difficult time in their lives.

Prayer Request

Bill Brown had a skin cancer removed from around his eye last week. Keep him in your prayers that he gets a good report and it heals quickly.

Casey Cleveland received 2nd degree chemical burns from his waist down and also on one arm while on the job Monday, September 24th. He was taken to the ORMC—ER where he received treatment. Casey is home and will not be able to work for about a month or so. Keep him in your prayers.

Anita Smith is scheduled to have a Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE) on October 18th at ORMC. They are checking for the cause of her irregular heartbeat. Please keep Anita in your prayers that this problem can be pinpointed and corrected.

Janet Wesson (Jeff's mom) is scheduled to have another CT scan on her lungs in Abilene. No cancer was found from an earlier CT scan. The doctors will be checking to see if her lungs are working properly. Keep her in your prayers that everything will check out okay.

Concerns Update

Sondie Williamson (Devida's niece) will have open heart surgery when the aneurysm on her aorta reaches 5 cm. At this time it is 4.5 cm. Please keep Sondie in your prayers that all will turn out okay for her.

Charles Simmons (Susan's husband) was released from the hospital September 25th. He is home and receiving home health care and physical therapy. He was scheduled to see a pulmonary specialist. Charles is in need of prayers

Prayer List

Elsie Bradford; Bill Bundick; Brad Bundick; Bill Butler; Raymundo Calzadias; David Castor; Emma Craig; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; James V. Drake; Glenda Driver; Dana Erwin; Densell Fambro; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Opal Hager; Winford Hambright; Letha Hooper; Chris & Shirley Landers; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Kirk McFarland; Juan & Estella Morolez; Caydon Parker; Jackie Rex; Ida Rodriguez; Elvia Ruckman; Janelle Shirley; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; Matthew Simmons; Albert Stegall; James Stephens; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Jurlean Warren; Chuck Weaver; Jimmy Weaver; Josh Wells; Lisa Wells; James & Janet Wesson; Ann Wilson; Glenda Winkley; John Wood; Jack Wright.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley; and Lester Whisenant.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

What was it that stood in the way of a young man who came to Jesus and said, "Good Master, what good thing must I do to inherit eternal life"? (Matthew 19:22)

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer...

Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River.

Events

Watch "*In Search of the Lord's Way*" every Sunday morning at 7:00 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the "**Speaking the Truth in Love**" program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

The Parkview Church of Christ has a "**Gospel Meeting**" that starts today and goes through Wednesday. The speaker is Lee Moses from the Berea church of Christ in Rives, TN. Please check our bulletin board for the detailed information.

Thank You

Thanks to everyone for the pretty cards and phone calls. I truly appreciate all of them. I hope to be back soon. I still have physical therapy and a nurse coming to my house. I hope to be back soon. Love ya, Glenna

Office News

The "**New Mexico Children's Home**" will be here Tuesday, December 4th for a food pick up. They are requesting **Chocolate Chips and Vanilla**. Monetary donations are also accepted.

STF—Group #1 will have their luncheon get-together this morning following the service. It will be in Room C-5.

Food for Thought...

Satan is never too busy to rock the cradle of a sleeping Christian.

October 7, 2018

	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Jaxon Straw	Craig Wesson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Josh Weakland	Dex Dennard
Second Prayer	Larry May	Bill Brown
Closing Prayer	Jr. Munoz	John Wood

Lord's Supper

(Scripture Reading)	<u>Scot Straw</u>	
West...	Bill Brown	Cody Wesson
	Tommy Garcia	Communion
	David Ryan	(In Library)
East...	Josh Wells	
	Jr. Munoz	
	Gary Loving	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Jeff Wesson 556-5547 *Deacon*: Jr. Munoz 363-1309 *Pulpit*: John Wood 413-7444 *Table*: Cody Wesson 934-4646 *Song Leaders*: Larry May 638-3990 *Recording Duties*: Rudy Ochoa 214-0398 *Collections*: Rudy Ochoa 214-0398

Sunday AM

"Whole-hearted Religion"
(Jeremiah 32:39)

Sunday PM

"Seasons of Life"
(Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

Our Records

Bible Class... 77

Morning Worship...109

Evening Worship...80

Wednesday...70

Contribution...\$5,408.53

