

- of the world. Think of the eight characteristics Paul describes in this verse as a test to discern what you let into your mind. To lower the stress in your life, you must change what you think about and control what you allow in your mind. So before you read, watch, or talk about something, ask yourself: Is it true? Is it noble? Is it right? Is it pure? Is it lovely? Is it admirable? Is it excellent? Is it praiseworthy? (RW)

Biblical Principle: Your perspectives, priorities and source of power start in your mind, detach from non-essentials and focus on eternal HUA

?Question: What are you entertaining in your mind letting in your house that is not glorifying to God.?

DO | What are you going to do about it?

Eph 6: 4

And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

- **Parents must endeavor to fill their home with the fragrance of the Gospel.** Do you promote confession, repentance, grace and mercy . . . or have you created a pressure-packed atmosphere *The best proof of the genuineness of your Christianity occurs within your home. (CS)*
- What is parenting? Very simple, really – loving your children so that they're not angry with you and bringing them up to know the Lord.
- They're overexposed to things their minds and emotions cannot handle. They are consequently hurried into massive temptations, which they are unable to deal with. **We have an overexposed generation of children who have to be treated like adults because they have all the adult information.** The issue in parenting is not controlling your children as an end in itself but leading them to Christ. Then, the Holy Spirit will transform them on the inside which works to neutralize the pressure of the world and the drives of depravity. They are subdued in the work of the Spirit in salvation.
- **Biblical Principle:** Love your children in such a way as they respect you and you can guide them, discipline them and instruct them in the ways of God – live the Gospel message at home. HUA

?Question:? Are you modeling and teaching the Gospel in your home!!

-----Stories from the Field-----

There is a Gathering Generational Storm, whereby the younger generation is being heavily influenced by the ideology that is shaping the larger culture. Every successive generation of young Christians is likely to face even stronger cultural pressure of secularization and anti-Christianism.

Most adolescents identify with Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (MTD): a god exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth; that god wants people to be good, nice and fair to each other, as taught in the bible. The goal of life is to be happy and feel good about one's self and God does not need to get involved unless there is a problem. And, all good people go to heaven.

Teenagers are incredibly inarticulate about their religious beliefs. Their worldviews are vague, limited and often quite at variance with actual teachings of their own religions. MTD teaches that living a good and happy life is being a good moral person. God is like a combination of a Divine Butler and Cosmic Therapist. He is extremely tolerant and radically undemanding. (Not a religion of repentance from sin!)

MTD replaces the sovereignty of God with the sovereignty of self. They have witnessed the hypocrisy of their parents in living out their beliefs and the accommodation with Christian organizations of Protestant Liberalism. Many emerging adults are willing to distance themselves from religion than try and deal with desiring to commit to two things that are incompatible – the world's lifestyle and Christian walk. This generation has become even more self-absorbed, delaying marriage, putting off having children and not just rejecting Christianity, but any religion.

Secularization altered the understanding of the home and family, as an essential and societal good. The sacredness of marriage, child bearing



Men of Valor

Gathering Storm #7

Biblical Manhood: To love and follow Jesus by being Men of the Word and Men of Prayer while Accepting Accountability, Taking Responsibility, Leading Intentionally, Persevering through Adversity in their domain to make God Known

and the family are eclipsed by the growing clouds of this secular age. That is why the younger voters prefer progressive and socialist candidates. Secularization and liberalization are multiplying in intensity. Future generations will completely reject any theistic world view and religion—because they probably never set a foot in a church.

Three things the Christian church must do: 1 – **Christian parents must view church as the highest and utmost priority for their family’s weekly schedule.** Exposure to God’s people and a gospel saturated community is essential for the nurturing of children in a secularized age. 2 – **Parents need to be serious about the effects of technology, screen time and social media.** The ease of access to pornography and specious ideologies and harmful worldviews can cause enormous harm. 3- **Parents must endeavor to fill their home with the fragrance of the Gospel.** Family worship, family devotions scripture memorization and quality family time will do more to promote the health of the next generation than we can imagine.

Talk about it:

Question for contemplation and discussion: What did God enlighten to you in the text?

KNOW | What does God want us to know

Hebrews 10:25

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near”

- **Christian parents must view church as the highest and utmost priority for their family’s weekly schedule.** There are many things that Jesus distributes to His people exclusively through the local church. The Lord intended for us to live the transformed life in community together. Knowing the purposes God intends for us in the local church enables us to receive them. If you want to go the distance

in your relationship with Jesus, don’t run the marathon on your own. No one can run the race *for* you, but other people can—and should—run the race *with* you. You’ll give up without support.

- You don’t need 100 people with you. You don’t even need 10. You just need three or four people running with you, supporting you in all God wants to do through your life. That’s why you need to be in a small group. You need people who can spur you on in your spiritual life. And you need to be able to spur on others.
- When you’re in a small group where you’re loved and accepted by others, they’ll give you the courage to keep going in your spiritual journey. They will pray for you when you don’t even know how to pray for yourself. They’ll help you persevere in your race.

Biblical Principle. We gather together to grow and strengthen our faith as we face many spiritual struggles and even persecution, We gather to worship together and serve one another. The church gives context and opportunity to live out our faith. (RW)

? Question: Is church a priority in your house, a priority to the next generation?

BE | How does God want us to become more like Him?

Phil 4:8

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, **think about these things.***

- **Parents need to be serious about the effects of technology, screen time and social media.** Blaming moral stress (incompatible worldviews) and temptation on external forces is easy. We think we’re stressed because of work or relationships or health struggles or media.
- But moral stress and temptation doesn’t come from what’s on the outside. It takes place between our ears. You’ll win or lose the battle in your mind. To cut down on moral stress and temptation, learn to control what gets into your mind. Unfortunately, we consume movies, books, and social media content that focuses our thoughts on the worst