

General Topics :: Children and church worship

Children and church worship - posted by vasilef (), on: 2008/2/25 7:15

There is a question that never crossed my mind till another brother told me about this.
Please don't give a quick answer based on your experience or feelings.
Please check this question in the light of the Scripture before drawing any conclusion.

Let me write first a small introduction.

I grew up in a Baptist church where as a child I was encouraged to take part in the church service: singing, reciting Bible verses and all kind of other activities during the church service.

But then someone asked me this question: Who can worship, serve and build the Church? The answer is obvious: those who are born of the Spirit.

Well then, as a child, I wasn't born of the spirit till I've been around 20 years old.

Was my service justified? Is the children's service today justified?

Almost every evangelical church encourages their children to have their part in the worship and church service. At least with the occasion of Christmas and Easter.

Should not serve the church only those who are led and inspired by God's Spirit?

Matthew 19

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as the se."

Obviously, Jesus is not speaking here about the children's service but about the free access they have to Him, about the ir simplicity and sincerity.

1 Corinthians 14:26

What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation , a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.

This service should happen as the Spirit is leading everyone but a child, unless is borne and led by the Spirit won't really build the Church.

When children are singing or doing something in the church it could be a nice time, some entertainment but not real fellowship and worship. A Christian's child is not a Christian unless he repents and believes in Jesus Christ. These are some question marks for which I don't have yet a final answer.

Have you ever thought about it?

Re: Children and church worship, on: 2008/2/25 8:34

When Jesus preached to the multitudes... did Peter and Andrew shuffle the kids off for Children's Church for flanel graph board Bible stories?

No.

When Moses was commanded by God to address the people, did God instruct Moses to address only the adults?

No.

There is no Biblical precedence for removing the children from under the preaching of the Word of God. This is clearly a man-made thing because children in this day and age are seen as an inconvenience. A distraction.

And no wonder. Mom wants to have her career, or the parents are in debt up to their eye balls, so they shuffle the kids off the day care... and then when they are older they drop them off at the Government feeding trough to eat slop (otherwise known as the public school)... and it's a real inconvenience for mom and dad when they kids have spring

break and summer break because then they have to get babysitters.

And this disregard for the children is in the church now as well. Mom and dad don't want to make their children sit and listen, it's easier to escort them down stairs to yet another babysitter.

But this is never seen in scripture.

In fact, what we see is God commanding the national leaders of Israel to address ALL of the nation, not just dad. Or dad and mom. We see Jesus sharply rebuking His own disciples for trying to shoo away the children.

And as far as only adults have God's Spirit leading them, this is hogwash. I've seen 5 yr olds being led of God's Spirit way beyond most 30-40 yr olds.

No, there is nothing in scripture that would lead anyone to conclude that children should be removed from the worship service. In fact, we find just the opposite.

I think it's a great mistake to remove them.

Instead, parents ought to learn how to teach their children to behave. Take notes, ask questions, pay attention. I know many who do this (and interestingly, they are all **homeschoolers**)

And yea, I've thought about it a lot. This issue has come up in our house churches often... and this is where we always I and on this topic.

Krispy

Re: - posted by vasilef (), on: 2008/2/25 9:33

I see what you mean.

Of course, I agree that a child can be born again or led by the Spirit.

but when there is one led by the Spirit and other 10 which are not, if they want to sing as a group, should their parents or the church elders encourage them?

However, it's something different when meeting in a home, you know much more about the other people's daily problems or burdens and you can approach them differently.

In a larger congregation it's more difficult to oversee the people.

I speak from my experience: We were about 30-40 children who were expected regularly to sing during the church service.

I wonder now, was that praise a "holy offering" before the Lord? Was the church truly blessed or just entertained?

If the children from your church are singing a song, for example, are you really blessed or you just find it cute or you like it? You have to be truly honest to answer this.

Re: Children and church worship - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2008/2/25 10:03

This issue is one that requires a lot of serious, prayerful thought. I agree with the other responses to this thread - so far.

I would reiterate this idea: how much is entertainment? how much is real spiritual enlightenment?

Then you have the child himself who is very young, immature and by no means do you want to stifle his expression or involvement. I well remember performing in Christmas programs in our parochial school and what a blessing this memory still gives to this 60 year old lady. Seems to me what you need is balance and this requires the leading of the Holy Spirit.

BTW, old folks, especially, love to hear children sing or perform. This may not seem logical to a younger person, but it does cheer older people. Is it perhaps because the young are not so skilled in manipulating folks like the older ones are? There is an innocence there in small children that gratifies older people, me included and I am NOT old! Some older folks - like young adults - take great pride in their public performance....seems to me the issue here can well be applied to persons regardless of age.

You wanted scripture to bolster our thoughts. Remember how Miriam lead the women in song and dance after a great deliverance when the Israelites crossed the Red Sea? (Exo. 15) God loves spontaneous praise, one that is not forced but rises from pleasure and joy in the heart. This is the challenge for all of us, IMHO.

Blessings,
ginnyrose

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/2/25 11:53

As we cultivate a keener appreciation for the works of God in our own lives, we need to be careful of getting too religious regarding the grace of God in other people's lives. I conclude that even seasoned saints must still acquiesce to marvel at salvation as a mystery of God's heart. There is both singular perfect holiness that only he can boast of and inclusive big hearted compassion that we boast of---all for his glory. Why it pleased such a perfect God to see we are saved, and how he intervenes for our salvation remains one of the most divisive controversies even among the saved!

For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. 1 Cor 7:14

I can think of no good reason to ban children from healthy forms of worship just because they show no signs of authentic confession, or even comprehension of saving faith. See it as spiritual apprenticeship that could very well lead to Godly habits and eventual personal knowledge of the Lord.

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Prov.22.6

Blessings,

MC

Re:, on: 2008/2/25 13:04

I do want to make it clear... childrens church or Sunday school is not a bad thing. I dont think a church is wrong to have them. I just really disagree with the reasoning in the original post about kids and the worship service.

In some of Pauls letters he addresses how churches should be run. There are strict qualifications for pastors/elders, deacons, etc. But Paul also talked a lot about "one has a word of knowledge" "one has a prophesy" etc etc... and yes, it's implied that these would be Christians, and thats true... but if they are Christians, who are we to judge where they are with the Lord? Who are we to set a standard outside of scripture? I'm not talking about the laity here, I'm talking about average Joe Christian's participation in the church.

But let me ask you this... what about the adults in the service? If what Ravenhill says is true, then only 2% of the adults in any given church are truly born again and following the Lord.

What then?

Krispy

Re: - posted by vasilef (), on: 2008/2/26 4:59

Quote:
-----But let me ask you this... what about the adults in the service? If what Ravenhill says is true, then only 2% of the adults in any given church are truly born again and following the Lord.

It's not exactly what Ravenhill said. If it would be really so it would be more than a disaster. He said that he doubts that more than two percent of professing Christians in the United States are truly born again. So I see many dead churches today but I still try to find the one where God is moving and changing the people's hearts.

you said: "who are we to judge where they are with the Lord?" I'm not the one who has to judge them but I certainly believe that the elders of the church have the right and obligation to judge them, which means to distinguish between carnal and spiritual, between goat and sheep, between false and real.

Can we allow everyone to say anything in the church if he profess to be a Christian? If he brings death in the church the elders should approach this person with love and restrict his participation (public speaking/singing). I think this is not outside the scripture.

This is about the adults in the service.

Re: children - posted by BVO (), on: 2008/2/26 8:23

Good turn in the conversation. If the adult service is Spirit led, and not carnal or soulish, what better place for the children to be. If in fact the meeting is soulish and carnal the children probably will not be a help or hindrance, but most likely will not be helped but hindered from spiritual growth. Unfortunately the church that is soulish and carnal in their meeting, will probably be soulish and carnal in their childrens classes as well. I know that I was supposed to keep this out of the experiential but I think these are kingdom principles as well.

I, like Krispy believe that the children go with the parents. I believe as Jesus at 12 was in the temple reasoning with the teachers it would not have been taboo for a 12 year old to be in the temple. This past Sunday we actually had great conversation on the content of the service with our 4 young ones (7, 9, 11, 14) How much better to be able to hash over what was still so freshly taught. When our children were in childrens classes it usually went like "how was class today? Did you learn anything?" There is maybe not a always right or wrong, but I don't think you can go wrong with children hearing a Spirit led message that is tailored by God for all who hear it. Thanks for tolerating my babbling! Lord bless this post, Barry

Re:, on: 2008/2/26 8:36

Notice I didnt say I agree with Ravenhill necessarily. Nor do I wholly disagree. I was just asking a question to make a point.

Quote:

-----If the adult service is Spirit led, and not carnal or soulish, what better place for the children to be.

This is exactly my point.

The arguments against children in the service in the original post are not scriptural... and thats my main point.

Krispy

Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2008/2/26 9:47

"Let the little children come to me"---Jesus.

Jesus doesn't deny them regardless of where He is.

Re:, on: 2008/2/27 8:53

This is a good thread...I have wondered this myself. A Church I was once involved with would routinely baptize children. Not to put words in anyones mouth, but I wonder if the question is more about their salvation. We know that the Word of God is sharper than A sword and able to pierce throw the bone to the marrow. Are we really training them up in the Lord, or are we trying to get them to say "YES" to five questions concerning the eternity? I think it is entertainment and more of emotion in most churches. Paul Washer stated he would never place his children under VBS leadership in most SB churches. The point is that they are more concerned about raising numbers, than true discipled training.

I believe children can be genuinely saved, but I find it odd, that a five year old can determine in his/her mind the costs of sin. The point I am making is there is not correct training in the church, but most of all, it not coming from the home.

Re: - posted by Lowly, on: 2008/2/27 9:24

Samuel is a great example.

"But Samuel was ministering before the Lord...a boy wearing an ephod." 1 Sam. 2:18

"The boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord." 1 Sam. 2:21

"and the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and favor with the Lord and with men." 1 Sam. 2:26

"Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli..." 1 Sam. 3:1

"The Lord called called Samuel." 1 Sam. 3: 4

"Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord; The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him." 1 Sam. 3: 7

Many missionaries I have talked with were called when they were 5, 6, and 7.

Our children are our most precious treasures. I think David Wilkerson was called into ministry at age 7. The Lord spoke to him that he would preach His word.

In His amazing love,
Lowly

Learn of Me for I am meek and lowly of heart.....

Re: Children and church - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/2/27 9:47

I admit, I have been chastised more than once for putting people on the platform who were less than the spiritual ideal. It usually boils down to expectation: Certain behaviors, emotions, clichés, and musical styles are considered more spiritual. Let's admit, kids learn quickly how to produce what gives them acceptance. The ones born and bred in church have a distinct advantage. But what we see may reflect the ability to conform outwardly more than a reflection of true inner transformation – which is the work of God in his time.

I am very reluctant to judge the spirituality of kids, and then try to separate out the sheep from the goats. God can speak to me through the most rambunctious of them all.

Kids need a loving environment, good examples, and consistent standards. The local church could be an ideal setting - IF it would refrain from turning the worship service into an idol – where one's ideal becomes more sacred than the need to facilitate growth and maturation.

Quote:
----- Our children are our most precious treasures.

So, let's not use them in order to "prop up" our religious icons, but let's consider how we may spur them on towards authentic love for God and one another. Of course, that means involving them in our spiritual lives in some way or other.

Diane

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2008/2/27 10:21

As a former child who attended Sunday School almost as far back as I can remember, I think children should be taught separately from adults like what happens in Sunday School. They should also be exposed to preaching from the pulpit that is directed towards adults - children will absorb more than we give them credit for. The advantage of SS classes is that the teacher can speak their language on their level where their understanding resides.

Jesus took children onto his lap and talked to them. I wonder what he said? The disciples didn't think it was necessary, but He did...something we must always consider.

Now to put them in front of the audience to perform...it has its advantages but can be abused, it can teach pride as well.

I am teaching juniors now at our church and find it a challenge - have two who are handicapped with learning disabilities - dyslexia. So, I adapt my presentation to reach them and the others do not seem to mind. I love these children and they know it. They are precious, have eternal souls that will live forever - somewhere. My passion is for them to make the right choices in life. And it begins in the home and should be reinforced in the church. Without that reinforcement the parents are at a serious disadvantage. Many a life has been influenced by a godly teacher and it should behoove us adults to be that teacher.

ginnyrose

Re:, on: 2008/2/27 11:20

I'm cool with separate SS classes. A 5 year old simply is not going to comprehend deeper teaching that should be happening in the adult class. But as for the general preaching of the Word... the family should remain together, with the exception of disruptive infants. An infant crying obviously should be taken out and attended to.

Having said that about SS.... the spiritual education of the children, according to the Word of God, is the sole responsibility of the PARENTS... specifically the FATHER. While SS is a nice addition to the spiritual upbringing of children, a godly father's children won't need what passes for SS today. He is already teaching them at home, and in the byways, etc etc.

When we visit churches, like my in-laws Southern Baptist church in Georgia, my kids hate going to the Sunday School because most of the kids in the SS act like undisciplined morons, and the teacher can't control the class, and what little "teaching" they do get done is watered down trite.

We sell our kids short if we think that even at ages 10 or 12 they aren't ready for deeper teaching. They are! It's just that most adults in the church today are still drinking milk, and not eating any meat.

Just go to your local Christian bookstore... all milk, no meat.

Krispy

Re:, on: 2008/2/27 11:27

The bottom line is here, Jesus did not deny them, so we should not either.

Also, if there is a productive children's church with a teacher who we know to teach and love God's words, then there can be also a wonderful movement of God among them. BUT if they are teaching them how to color and finger paint for God, then what do we suppose will happen. Kids can be convicted also by the Lord!

Also, are we so thorough that we can determine what is always either soulish, spirit led or carnal, I know I am a poor, so very poor it disturbs me much of the time, but I hope in Christ daily. We must let God bring us into spiritual ascension, not think that we get in the spirit on a regular basis either, we are in fact born extremely carnal. God will bless our meetings as long as our hearts are engaged in him. He knows when our best (usually when we are weakest in spirit and flesh) is given toward heaven and HE will advance us sort to speak and our children.

Who are we people, to think we walk in the spirit sooooo much. A humble and a meek nature doesn't even seek to determine such things, it just becomes what it ought to be as God works it in us. It is God who works and wills in us, with us, around us for his good pleasure, he uses our mind, body, soul and spirit as we grow in maturity.

WE R ALL FAR FROM THE PEACEFUL SHORES OF GOD'S PRESENCE AND POWER BCUZ OF THE DECLINE OF OUR RELIGION IF U WILL. WE NEED RESTORATION TO THE FULLEST OF ONLY GOD'S REFRESHING. ALL THE UNANSWERABLE/CONFLICTING QUESTIONS WILL SOON BE REVEALED UNEQUIVOCALLY by the precious uncontroversial and definitive HOLY SPIRIT of God.

Blessings to u all

EJG

Re: - posted by figtreelives, on: 2008/2/27 15:12

Thanks Krispy Kritter, these are just my thoughts to your reply.

The arguments against children in the service in the original post are not scriptural... and that's my main point.

. In no way does this mean that you are experienced in this area....the bible speaks about training your kids in the way of the Lord, so that when they get older they shall not depart, correct?

Train up your children in the ways of the Lord, so that when they get older they shall not depart. I raised my child, in the ways of the Lord, so much so that during a prayer meeting at the age of 4 my child was speaking in tongues, (an unknown language).

Teach your children to fear the Lord, and to reverence Him and his Holy presences. Your children will most likely do what they so often see you doing and they will speak as they hear you speaking. If what you do is sit on your kitchen floor and worship God, then guess what? This is what your child will learn to do. If what you do is pace back and forth praying in the Spirit and Praying the Word, then guess what? This is what your child will do.

When your child sees you praying for a nation, pulling down strong holds, breaking walls, uprooting, and calling those things that are not as though they are, guess what? This is what your child will do.

By no means am I saying that your child ought to be raised with a silver spoon in their mouths, No, on the contrary teach your child the word! Help him or her through prayer to memorize the word!.

When my child was of a toddler's age, I used to shield him of everything that was in the world and in television, unless it was PBS. Never! Did I allow anyone, and I mean anyone to even speak a word that was not appropriate anywhere near my son, YES! I was hated and disliked by everyone in the family because of this and I was judged. I didn't care what anyone thought of me, all I cared was about my child's Spirit.

When kids get to be of a certain age, you can no longer shield them in this way, you must continue to trust the word of God. Teach your children the ways of the Lord, and when they get older they shall not depart.

Realistically speaking, your child will one day see the world with his and her own eyes and you will be able to tell your child, at that time....well this is how the world is, and that is why it is so important to pray and to pray the word, the world needs you, and needs to see God's light shine in and through you.

God's word cannot return back void, but accomplish everything that it was set out to do. If the word of God tells you that you must gird yourself up,

That, you must put on the FULL ARMOUR OF GOD before walking out the door, then guess what? This is what your child will do. Your child will ask you to pray for him or her, when something is going wrong or something is just not right, and they know it in their Spirit.

You must at all times keep your eyes opened so that you can discern your kids / children's Spiritual gifts.

At the age of 4, my son was speaking in tongues; at the age of 5 he was mimicking his pastor with a hair brush as a microphone, and a cup of coke next to him and an open bible. Believe it, it is so, there are witnesses both in Heaven and in Earth.

th that this is so. At the age of 8 he was praying for 3rd world countries.

As I mentioned earlier when your child gets to be of a certain age, you can not longer shield them, but allow them to see the world with their own two eyes, and pray that everything that you instilled in them at a younger age, will remain. Answer all of their questions, but please allow them to (find), to (seek) and to desire (the Lord), and their Salvation.

Salvation is a gift and it is not one that you can give to them, No! they must want to be saved, they must know that Heaven is real and that Hell is real, they have to make a decision for themselves.

I'm sorry sweetie, but you can not hold your child or your kid's hands and lead them into Heaven. You must show them the way, but they have to get there on their own. Salvation is a gift, a free gift.

You will find that when your child's character is being formed, their uniqueness will shine, Your job will be to make sure that they continue fearing the Lord, and to humbly seek Him.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. When your child gets to be of a certain age, you will not always be there with them, but you can always trust His Word and what you have instilled in them, please hear what I am saying to you.

-Pardon my Zeal.

Re:, on: 2008/2/27 16:04

Quote:
-----I raised my child, in the ways of the Lord, so much so that during a prayer meeting at the age of "4" my child was speaking in tongues, (an unknown language).

Yea... you lost me right there.

Anyway, thank you for the words of wisdom. I agree with some of what you said. Not all.

I have four boys and am an elder in a network of small house churches. Contrary to what you said in the beginning of your post... I do know something about what I am talking about when it comes to raising kids. As far as kids with their parents during the proclamation of the Word... have had to deal with that in our churches. The kids are present, and hear the Word proclaimed.

Krispy

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/2/27 16:38

Quote:
-----The kids are present, and hear the Word proclaimed.

It is so good to hear this. It is my belief that young people need to be with healthy adults much more than they need to be with their peers. This is especially true in spiritual matters.

MC

Re:, on: 2008/2/27 17:26

Who is a better influence on 6 yr old kids? Mature adults? Or a class room full of other 6 yr old kids?

Anyone who homeschools understands this. There is nothing wrong with good strong youth ministry in the church. Problem is... most are not good, and most are not strong.

Kids will not learn to behave and listen to the Word of God from other kids their ages. It needs to be taught to them by their parents. And for kids who are in the church, but their parents are not... then the godly adults in that church need to take those kids under their wings and mentor and disciple them. But that's not happening much today either.

Christians are, for the most part, just like worldly unsaved people in that respect. Just like the world, dropping their kids off at the public schools and leaving their education up to our godless government and educational system.

Then, come Sunday, drop the kids off at Sunday School and tell the church "you teach them!"

No! That's not scriptural at all! But what about the Christian culture in America IS scriptural? Not much.

I'm tired of "dead beat" Christian parents who expect the church to do what God has commanded THEM to do!

This has really struck a nerve with me.

Krispy

Re: - posted by Lor_E (), on: 2008/2/27 18:47

"..the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'who shall be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?'

and Jesus called a little child unto Him, and set him in the midst of them, and said

'Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Whosoever therefore, shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.' " Matthew 18:2-4

Although, it didn't seem as though the original question was "should children be in the church congregation?"; rather it seemed to me to be "should children be a participant in the church service?"

I must say, (sorry brother, a little experience here...)there have been times in my life that I went to church hoping to hear a spirit filled message, something that would encourage me in my struggle.... and instead the little ones were playing the ir bells and others sang some songs; it was cute, but it wasn't what I really thought I needed at the time. (although I was going from purely selfish motives as well...)

There have also been times when I have heard a "grown up" sing a "special" and was more ministered by the bell choir..

I agree with Krispy that children should be with their parents during the church service, it is good experience for both the child and the parent.

I have been at a church that had a lesson taught to the children in front of the church before the service began and that was very interesting! I think everyone learned.

I also think that we adults can learn much from little children, about what it is to be humble, about being obedient, about how our Father in heaven corrects us and how we respond to that correction, etc, etc....

I have also seen at an "appropriate time" during a service when children sang and it was a very blessed moment!

But, do children "build" the church? No, gifts were given to men to minister, build and edify, the church (the entire church).

Although, we as clay vessels should ALWAYS be open to however the Lord would speak to us, especially through those whom the Lord spoke as they were singing and praising Him on the way into Jerusalem: "Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings Thou hast perfected praise!"

(I apologize for the length of my post.)

A sister

Re:, on: 2008/2/27 18:47

Both are very effective Krispy, God will use the both by his anointing.

Also, when u said one of the posters lost u when he stated his 4 yr old was speaking in tongues. Did u get the message of what he was stating?

With Love Brethren, I need that to be known

EJG

Re: - posted by vasilef (), on: 2008/2/28 3:53

Quote:
-----I must say, (sorry brother, a little experience here...)there have been times in my life that I went to church hoping to hear a spirit filled message, something that would encourage me in my struggle.... and instead the little ones were playing their bells and others sang some songs; it was cute, but it wasn't what I really thought I needed at the time. (although I was going from purely selfish motives as well...)

sorry here, too.

I didn't want to exclude someone's examples or experience with the children but only to check first if these have any Bible support.

Many times we are doing something in the church not because we understand it from the Bible or because the Spirit revealed us but because we learned it from our forefathers; in theory and practice.

So we must constantly renew our mind and get in line with the Scriptures not the other way around.

Re: - posted by Lor_E (), on: 2008/2/28 7:44

Quote:
-----Many times we are doing something in the church not because we understand it from the Bible or because the Spirit revealed us but because we learned it from our forefathers; in theory and practice.

I would say that is quite an understatement! Far, far too many times churches gather in tradition having lost the freshness of communication with the Spirit of God, unfortunately.

Just one more verse regarding the responsibility of the parent to teach their children:

"And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Ex 6:7

The gathering of believers is many sided; but the church building does not necessarily represent the church, rather we are the church and the building represents to many a place to seek for some spiritual significance, a place of solace, a place of understanding... many, many things in this day; but those who are being built together within the structure (whatever that may be home or on the corner..) must use wisdom not to exclude, but not to pander to either.

By the way, D.L. Moody who began the Sunday School program in many ways believed it a tool for outreach, and in many cases it is. Many unsaved people send their children to church and only attend when their children are in a function.

Thanks and God Bless,
Lori

Re: Kids and church - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/2/28 8:32

Quote:

----- Who is a better influence on 6 yr old kids? Mature adults? Or a class room full of other 6 yr old kids?

Ahhhh, What about socialization?!? (Sorry, I just had to throw this one in.:-x) Krispy, you have not doubt received that objection countless times. I did when I was homeschooling. Even the church folk were more concerned about my kids' socialization than their spiritual formation.

Socialization is the higher priority in our culture -- ie, conformity.

Quote:

----- And for kids who are in the church, but their parents are not... then the godly adults in that church need to take those kids under their wings and mentor and disciple them. But that's not happening much today either.

As Lori pointed out, that why Moody instituted Sunday School -- for the underprivileged.

I believe that mentoring and discipling are more Biblical and far more effective than structured classes. Still, I'm not opposed to a "classroom" style -- even from the pulpit. Kids can absorb much more than we give them credit for. We insult them by assuming that they can only appreciate cute shallow stories and songs.

As an 8 yo I still remember the day an announcement was made that a children's church program had been implemented. I was crushed - because by that time I had come to crave the sermon.

Some years later, in a different church, I remember the minister would drone on over the 52 articles of faith every Sunday. So I complained to my dad, stating that I wanted to hear more directly from the Bible, except the stories. My dad told the minister, on my behalf, who then made his sermons more interesting. Yea Dad!

And, by the way, back when I was a kid, it was customary for the Dad to read the Bible after every meal. How things have changed!

Diane

Re:, on: 2008/2/28 9:18

Quote:

----- Ahhhh, What about socialization?!? (Sorry, I just had to throw this one in.) Krispy, you have not doubt received that objection countless times. I did when I was homeschooling. Even the church folk were more concerned about my kids' socialization than their spiritual formation.

My response to that stupid question (and we get it often) is "Hey, we're not trying to raise socialists!"

Anyone who asks that question is completely ignorant of what homeschooling is.

Krispy

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/2/28 13:31

Yes, I am always surprised that quarantining children within their age group is seen as 'socializing' them. In fact, it is de-socializing them, because in real society every age must learn to interact with every age.

The twisting of words like 'socialization' shows the power of higher education: (edit: it may not provide a person with common sense, but it sure helps a senseless person articulate themselves better.)

MC

Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2008/2/28 14:00

Quote:

KrispyKrittr wrote:

Quote:
-----Ahhhh, What about socialization?!? (Sorry, I just had to throw this one in.) Krispy, you have not doubt received that objection countless times. I did when I was homeschooling. Even the church folk were more concerned about my kids' socialization than their spiritual formation.

My response to that stupid question (and we get it often) is "Hey, we're not trying to raise socialists!"

Anyone who asks that question is completely ignorant of what homeschooling is.

Krispy

The topic of socialization with my children is a funny one for us. We homeschool our children and we have home church in my home as well.

Most, but not all, homeschooled children are more respectful of parents, adults, rules and authority. Most are WELL socialized with other homeschoolers and after school activity programs, church programs and neighborhood friends. In our place of worship, most all of the children are homeschoolers and outnumber the adults. We have tons of children that our kids can play with and that we will not have to worry about being taught something that is unacceptable, or see something that is unacceptable.

I also like when people tell me that I am sheltering my child by homeschooling them. I like to respond and tell them something like...

"There are 10 year olds that are coming home from school pregnant, learning about pervertedness sex, swearing, dressing like the world, disrespectful of parents and authority, mean to others... So if you mean that I am sheltering my children because I do not want them to be exposed to such filth, then I prefer to shelter them."

Also on the side if children in worship services. Children learn what see their parents doing. It is GOOD to have your children in the services. We talk about socialization of children in these smaller groups, but what about socialization of the children inside the larger body of the Church. There is times where it may not be appropriate for children to be involved in services, but these are few and far between.

Children need to be taught to sit down, listen and obey their parents. This includes during worship in the church. If the kids are not listening, then discipline them anyway you see fit as a parent.

I for one love that children are involved in listening to the messages. Children do not take part in any part of the worship, unless it is during a music time, and this only happens 2-3 a year.

Re: - posted by Almond, on: 2008/2/28 17:25

Absolutely Krispy Kritter, why do you doubt and especially the Socialization part of building a children's church? When Jesus walked into the Jewish Temple as it was customary, every year during Passover for three days in the temple in the midst of adults, granted he was not 6 but 12 he was in the midst of the High Priest, answering all sorts of questions. Once he left the Jewish Temple and was united with his earthly parents, he was questioned and his answer to them was,

DON'T YOU KNOW THAT I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS....

Re: - posted by Almond, on: 2008/2/28 17:27

Shouldn't this be our mindset?

Re: - posted by Lor_E (), on: 2008/2/28 18:01

Quote:
-----Yes, I am always surprised that quarantining children within their age group is seen as 'socializing' them. In fact, it is de-socializing them, because in real society every age must learn to interact with every age.

I too am amazed by this concept. I grew up in church, and felt "quaranteed". I remember as a young person around 15 I was deeply puzzled by the lack of anything within the "youth group"; nice enough people, but little was meaningful, as well as the Sunday school class, so I joined my mom's class and found out her's wasn't any better, as a matter of fact the man talked in such a monotone that I began to fall asleep!

No, children DO learn what they see their parents doing, even those things you don't think they see..... they see!

I remember when I went to visit my grandmother once when my daughter was about 2yrs old; they came to me during the service and asked if she would like to go to children's church. She looked at me so horrified I said, no thank you. ALL of the people around me were mystified as to the behavior of my daughter, they came up to me after the service and asked how it came to be that she was so well behaved. I told them she had always sat with me during services and learned what was acceptable behavior.

I would really like to see more people having just such a serious discussion within their churches:

1. in regards to the treatment of children both those within the church and those from outside of the church (I'm not a big fan of the word "mentor" but discipling would be a good thing for the church to be a part of!)
2. the absolute need for people in positions of any form of ministry to be led by the Word and the Spirit, especially those who minister to children of ANY age!
3. the position of the "father" within the home to be the spiritual leader!!!!
4. Seeing that appropriate social behavior comes from being around people of many different ages, with many different backgrounds all behaving in a godly way!!!

Thank you brother, for opening up one such discussion.

Re: Children and church worship - posted by vasilef (), on: 2008/2/29 9:39

"When all Israel is come to appear before the Lord thy God in the place which He shall choose thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Gather the people together, men and women and children (the Hebrew word here is 'taph' meaning the little toddlers)...that they may hear, and that they may learn and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law, and that their children....may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God..." Deuteronomy 31:11-13

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2008/2/29 10:50

One can never measure how much a child absorbs from sitting in on a worship service. To the parents I say, please keep your child quiet. If it becomes noisy, take it out and demonstrate to it that it is not profitable to make such a disturbance ! Too many times I have been distracted when a speaker was making an important point to have a child cry, fuss which is one reason why I sit up as close as I can to the speaker. (Another reason is that I cannot see through people - me being short and my misfortune too many times is sitting behind a tall person! **sigh**)

ginnyrose