



## I SEE A PROBLEM!

### Where is the Respect?

When I was growing up, children were taught to honor and respect their elders. If I talked back, there was a price to pay and it wasn't going to my room that had a TV, cell phone, computer, IPAD, IPOD, Internet capability, or other such luxuries.

If I was sent to my room it was a time of either cleaning it, sitting and pondering in quietness what I did wrong, where I went wrong, what I should do better, or reading a book; should there be one to do so. It was a time to adjust my attitude problem and learn submission, even if my parent's judgement had been hasty.

### Who is Submissive to Whom?

Today it has flipped and now it seems that homes have children who "rule the roost...." This is not only true in the home, but this power change has permeated within the Church, itself. I hear of many congregations where the services are generated around the needs, wants, and likes of the youth. These are the ones who should be in training to know how to become preachers, teachers, elders, deacons, and future leaders.

Yet the services are geared around the very ones who lack the wisdom, understanding, and knowledge of what is important or necessary for edifying the Body of Christ as a whole, thus bringing Glory to the Lord Jesus Christ in meaningful worship.

They do not know what it is like yet to have knees, backs and hips that ache where their body is beginning to break down in some aspect due to age. Standing too long at a time can be very painful for some people.

Even a preacher once told me how he had to stand 20–25 minutes for the song service. He then said, "They don't realize that I have to get up and stand to preach for another 30–40 minutes when they get to sit down!"

People will then say, "Well, those in the Old Testament stood when the Law was being read" and I would reply, "Yes, and they walked the majority of the time to get from one place to another and their culture was used to that."

Today, we have so many modern luxuries we are not as fit as we should be. When we get older it usually shows in our health. The younger generation does not know that even our nerves change as we get older. The secular music once played and listened to in earlier years, was louder. Yet when we grow older its not the beat or noise that is important anymore, as much as the words and meaning they hold within the songs.

Upon aging one seems to desire peaceful and meaningful songs to soothe the nerves from the world's stressful ways, which enhances our thankfulness of it to glorify the Lord.

The Scriptures gives examples for the Church of the flock being LED by the Shepherds or the Elders....and the younger should submit to the elder.

**I Peter 5:5**, "Likewise, ye **younger**, **submit yourselves unto the elder**. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."

When one does not submit, God says that that person is proud. Thus, the younger generation should not be so argumentative if the adult service is not geared around them like it has been since kindergarten. They should be trained to be ready for the adult service, not despise it because it doesn't fit their way of doing it.

Why don't we have the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders come up to lead the singing or preaching? Shouldn't they be included in what THEY like to hear which speaks to the way they would want to worship? There has to be some rule of order at some point and the Scripture shows as given above that the YOUNGER should SUBMIT to the ELDER.

Then again, some just decide to add another worship service for them or even begin a new Church geared around their personal style. This is divisive. It separates the wisdom of the adults from the energy of the youth.

The average child who attends services today is hardly ever among the adult traditional service from Kindergarten on up to High School. Music and lessons revolve around their own style and age so it has been geared to please THEM.

And when they graduate from High School, they drop out of the adult service or want to start their own "college class" because they have not been prepared to worship with adults or follow their lead and many of them consider it "old-fashioned". They are like fish out of water and then we wonder why we lose them.

### Why the Changes? Why the Divisions?

Subliminal TV commercials, sitcoms, and shows have engineered a new generation of self-centeredness, disrespect, and lack of overall guidance for their elders or parents.

I cringe today when I see a child arguing strongly with their parent who has given them a command to obey or the parent has stated their decision against the child asking permission to do something or go somewhere. I was allowed to state my reason for something but once my parents gave a decision, you didn't dare argue further! Of course, not every child and home is like that.

### What's More Important?

I've noticed many parents miss attending worship services on the Lord's Day because their children wanted to have "fun" doing something else. In a broken-up home, the one parent often feels "guilty" for not being able to spend much time with their children.

They have to work to provide for their home but when they have time off they are so tired that they give in much too easily because they are seeking peace and rest. This can also affect the lack of discipline they should be giving to the children because they don't want to "argue" with them.

Some will compromise the lack of time spent with their kids by letting their kids have "fun" when there are Church services or functions they could attend. I've known of some parents who spend money above and beyond what their budget really allows so that their kids can have some fun.

Then they are asking the Church for financial assistance because bills went unpaid. Tithes and offerings to God were compromised. And on top of all of this, activities are being promoted where kid's functions are held on the Lord's Day!! Families miss services because their kids have a sports event or family function and God seems to be forgotten.

Which is more important to the child's eternal goal....the family gathering for worship and around the Lord's Table

or their sports function that won't even matter in years to come????

### Who Teaches Whom?

Parents are the ones that Scriptures shows are to train their children by examples concerning the importance of Godly values, obedience, and sacrifice. Not the child training the parent in the way THEY want them to go... I think it goes like this....

"(Parents) Train up a CHILD in the way he (the child) should go: and when he (the child) is old, he (the child) will not depart from it." **Proverbs 22:6**

Scriptures teach that the older women are to teach (train) the younger women. The younger ladies don't want to be taught and many get offended if they are asked to "cover up" some part of their body that may be exposed. Young boys don't want to take off their hats in the services to show respect.

Isn't the fruit of these actions telling us they have no respect for the older that are trying to teach them? Why should our youth need to be asked to honor such requests by older Christian peers? Parents should be training them at home. It shouldn't be addressed at the assembly when services are beginning or in session.

### Where is the Honor?

Today, many of the younger generation do not want to imitate much of what their parents or grandparents did. Are they ashamed of them? Even songs their parents/grandparents sing are changed. They keep the same words, but they change the music and tempo so it is now "different". They make it work so that "they" own it or it gravitates around "their likes" and then mock or make fun of those who don't conform to sing it with that new style.

Wisdom is not attained as much in our youth as it is in our older years. Knowledge and understanding precede wisdom as wisdom is rightly applying the knowledge attained and knowledge comes through experience.

Job spoke of it...**12 With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding.** 13 With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding."

--**Job 12:12-13**

Kids will do what they are allowed to get by with. So parents and leaders, let's deem God's order correctly in the home and assembly so that the Lord will be able to bless us.

Peace can be brought back to our homes and congregations when adults resume their training leadership duties and the youth of today learn to obey.

--*Tabitha*