

Encourage Children To Be Spiritually-Minded

by Steven Deaton

“How can we encourage our youth to be spiritually-minded in this age of materialism and convenience?”

First, don't spoil them. Giving them everything they want, or nearly everything, or pushing things on them they haven't even asked for will create a materialistic mindset. Waiting on them hand and foot will make tyrants out of them.

Second, make them work. Teach them to do chores and generally help out around the house. Sometimes this means foregoing play time with friends. Make them get up and get going with the day (Prov. 26:14).

Third, and this is an overall point, children must have the truth instilled in their hearts from a very young age (Eph. 6:4). *“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it”* (Psalm 127:1). They need to be instructed in the pitfalls of materialism (1 Timothy 6:9-10). Pointing to the wrecked lives of the “stars” in our culture will help to impress on them the emptiness of riches for the sake of riches.

Fourth, and perhaps most importantly, as parents we need to shun materialism and not shirk our duties in this age of convenience. Setting the right example for our children will put an indelible mark on their psyche that will stay with them the rest of their lives. If we are not doing right, we cannot expect them to do right.

We have an uphill task in raising our children. We must approach it humbly, with much prayer and patience. Others who have gone through it before can help us to avoid some of the bigger pitfalls and give wise counsel (Prov. 15:22). Let us have confidence we can do what the Lord requires of us and that our children will be good people.

Easter Celebration?

by Wayne Goff

Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and is observed in Spring when nature seems to be resurrecting from the long, cold winter. In the past, this was also the time when people wore their new Spring clothes to church for the first time. Some still choose to wear pastel colors on this date, but it is not as uniform as it once was.

Some may wonder today why we do not observe Easter Sunday. The answer is simple: it is not authorized in the New Testament, and we seek to please Jesus Christ by honoring Him and His mighty works in the way that He has chosen. Even Jesus asked the question two thousand years ago: *“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say?”* (Luke 6:46).

So we worship Jesus Christ today as we do every Sunday, by observing the five commands of worship: (1) Singing, Ephesians 5:18-19; (2) Praying, 1 Corinthians 14:15; (3) Studying, Acts 2:42; (4) Communion, 1 Corinthians 11:23-25; (5) Giving, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.

If you are visiting with us, then we are glad you are here. We hope and pray that you can see the beauty and simplicity of worshiping God *“in spirit and in truth,”* John 4:24.

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