

This Generation

As we enter the month of July, we do so with a vast number of individuals in a state of despondency over the deaths of Michael Jackson and Farah Fawcett. To many they were idols. Those idols are gone but for a fading memory.

What are they now? A better question would be "Where are they now?" The lives they lived are a matter of history. Ours is not. We can chart our eternity in another direction. They no longer have that opportunity.

Many have grown into adulthood with these two Hollywood celebrities. Some are growing up making idols of other celebrities such as Destiny Hope 'Miley' Cyrus and Rihanna Fenty. As we monitor the "progress" of these two young women, it is easy to see the 'Hollywood effect' coming into play. Going from innocence to absolute corruption, these young women are selling their bodies and souls to gain fame and fortune.

Will we look back on their lives with the same sense of another wasted human life like Michael Jackson's? In spite of his fame, fortune and talent he was a failure.

What about the older generation? What about the parents of these young people? We often come down on the youngsters for their lifestyles, dress-styles (or lack thereof), and other behavior patterns. How did society reach this stage?

Looking at the culture garbage engulfing our youth, whether it's what is sold to them, written to them--movies and music--or the computer pornography jumping out at them, there is one thing we can all agree on: our children are not the ones who invented these things.

Just about every one of these social influences -media entertainment, technological inventions or opportunities on the Web - that are destroying children, have been dreamed up by the older generation. These older leaches prey on young people by appealing to their most corrupt desires to get them to empty their pockets. It's all about the money!

The fact is, the children didn't ask for this garbage; they were sold it by people trying to get rich without any thought of moral consequences. Their obvious response would be, "If people didn't buy it, we wouldn't make it" as if it is morally justifiable to sell people things that will destroy them just because they buy it. In the case of our young entertainers, especially those who start out in childhood, the parents seem to only see the dollar sign without any thought of the moral consequences to their children.

Our children are a temporary gift from God. I say temporary in the sense that the time comes when they are on their own and make their own decisions. It is during the season they are in our care that parents have the influence.

And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. - Joel 2:28

Old men (parents, older generation) what is your dream for the young people under your influence either as a parent or a member of the community? Merely giving birth does not make you a parent. Being a parent means sacrificing while your children are small, laying down your "deserved" freedoms. Being there to mould your children will avoid their being raised by a culture.

Every time we allow our children to watch, see, feel, touch and embrace the world's culture, they become a part of that culture. The fact is, they will start to emulate that person they so admire on TV or in music or whatever the media. Then we wonder how the small children learn how to curse, be abusive to parents and at times seemingly uncontrollable. The cartoons teach them how!

You can determine if they will be entertainment oriented, self-oriented or genuinely caring towards others. You determine whether they are constantly satiating the flesh and desiring the latest fad to amuse them, or become men and women who lay down their lives as a sacrifice for others.

What are the dreams that old men dream for the next generation? Do we dream of a generation of young people on fire for Jesus? Do we dream of a generation of young people doing the works of Jesus? Do we dream of a drug-free generation?

What are their dreams? Their dreams should not be built on the offerings of the world. Help them realize your dreams as well as their own by utilizing their God-given talents, teaching them how to pursue a relationship with Jesus. Their dreams should not be founded on becoming rich in terms of worldly wealth. Their dreams should be of becoming all that God has called them to be.

If Jesus is Lord of their lives, every step in their life is ordered. Everything they desire will become a reality. God does not call everyone to be famous. God has a plan for the electrician as well as the preacher, for the mechanic as well as the business executive. If for instance, God calls you to be a mechanic and you desire the position of a business executive, you are accepting second best!

To walk out God's plan for us is the highest achievement in life. Success is not spelt B-L-I-N-G. Nor is it spelt F-A-M-E. Neither is it spelt P-O-P-U-L-A-R! To be successful is to continuously walk in the will and plan of God for your life. God does not make clones - He makes children!

God gave Joshua the keys to being prosperous and successful:

"Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. ⁷ Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸ Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so

*that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9
Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged,
for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua1:6-9*

Let us teach our children the right road to success, and then we will reclaim future generations for Jesus!