

How can you Cope with Today's Crises

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Many people enjoy the old fashioned movies. Often they have a wholesome crisis, a point where everyone waits for something to happen to the hero - are they going to live or die. We are at this point now, this world is at that point.

Paul says we are vexed.

At the time of writing; the youth of 'today' represents 20% of the population. Many practice the use of drugs, sexual immorality leading to many diseases, violence. They are suffering under the weight of life's problems. 25% of these adolescents, lead empty and sad lives overwhelmed by life's problems. Suicides have doubled in the last 20 years. Teenagers now consider the use of drugs as common place. In one year the country had 55,000 suicide attempts (in Britain every 2.5 minutes someone tries to take their life, unfortunately in a year 5,000 succeed).

Why are they suffering today?

A recent survey showed that parents with children only spent 11 minutes per day (*mothers*) prime time, while the fathers only spent 8 minutes! At the week-end this increased to about 13 minutes.

We can conclude that this may be start of the problem - families not spending enough time together. It is not helped by the family breaking up so that grandparents are not around to help by giving their support and advice, but today it is made worse if the parents themselves part company. And we note that child delinquency has increased proportionally with family break-up. Yahweh promotes The Family unit, but Satan will use any means possible to break the family up, to cause the social upheaval that we witness around us.

What sort of genuine base do these parents give?

1Cor 14v8 And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle?

There must be a distinct call for the children to follow. If there is no clear decisive direction given then how will they know what direction to go? Many parents work hard to give children material things. But is pampering the correct thing to do? Clearly this spoils a child. The general school education promotes sexual immorality rather than consideration, thoughtfulness and kindness. Immorality is prominent in the Government. And sexuality is demonstrated on the television. Saturday children's programs are positively horrifying. Many Pop Groups simulated sexual acts on the stage, demonology expressed in cartoons. It is assumed that after 18 years of watching a normal amount of television, 1000's of murders, crimes, sexual acts have been witnessed. Clearly the viewers become desensitised to daily events if they are 'bomb blasted' with it (considered as being acceptable) on television everyday!

Matt. 24v3 Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and the close of this age?

This started several decades (possibly back to the beginning of **1st world war**) when the signs started to occur.

Luke 21v29-32 And He told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree, and all the trees; as soon as they come out to leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away till all has taken place.'

Clearly great time of trouble.

Many terrible things happening.

Form of godly devotion, but it is hypocritical.

All these things were prophesied by Paul through the Holy Spirit.

If we ask people:

'Do you fear God?'

The answer you get from them is:

'Who is He?'

'Do not know Him!'

People may ask:

Is there a problem in this world?'

Clearly there is for some people in this world.

How do you cope with these problems?

Essentially you start with parental example. Good results must be set by the parents. We should have good clear Christian examples in our life. People must have a daily course of conduct that has a deep-seated love of God.

Matt. 22v37 And Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your mind.

This is the great and first commandment.'

Clearly the total being of ourselves must show our love for God.

Matt. 6v33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

Put the kingdom of God first, if people do that all the time then after a while they will begin to understand the kingdom of God. Timothy grew up under his grandmother who gave him good instruction.

We as parents must follow some guide lines:-

1. Be a good listener. Being older we should know how we can help the child's problems effectively.
2. Must learn to talk to a child on their level.
3. Spend time to play with them.

Youths should learn to know what God wants and expects from young people's lives.

Also they should know what God provides for all of us.

It is very important that parents make this education interesting.

It should not be boring and so making the child come out with: 'O no, not now!'

Deut. 6v6-7 These words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and you shall talk of them when you sit in your home, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

If God is in your thoughts, in your mind on the road of life. When you see a butterfly or insect give a child a quick lesson on nature. Explain that God is a wonderful provider, respect Gods creation rather than just to destroy it.

Children should be trained to care about God and learn about His arrangements.

If people were educated in this then they would understand what life is about.

They would know how to cope with the crises occurring daily within their lives now.

You must learn to recognise your enemy.

How can you fight it if you do not know it?

You cannot see it!

1John 5v19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world is in the power of the evil one.

The whole world lies within his power. This is a unique setting; the vast majority of people are not serving God!

However while we live in this world, we do not have to do worldly things. We must be aware of Satan's arsenal, which he will use against us, and at times most injurious to us!

1Cor. 6v18 Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body.

This is most prominent in cities. We have also the love of luxury and licentiousness.

However it is wrapped up, fornication is essentially sexual activity outside marriage.

We should flee from it. It is a sin against our body because:-

1. Leads to sexually transmitted diseases.
2. Child abortions.
3. Early marriages with perhaps incompatible partners.
4. Possibly in some cases, unloved children, and that is so unfair on them!

Another problem for adolescents is the use of drugs.

A local paper disclosed that drugs are available from drug pushers at every school in Cambridge!

It is interesting to note Jesus' reaction to drugs. When he was suffering at the crucifixion water was offered to him. He noticed that it was laced with alcohol to dull the senses. Jesus wanted to have full control of all his faculties during his death, and so rejected it.

We must reject the use of all drugs (possible exclusion of those prescribed from the doctor to assist in your cure).

It is well known that you reap what you sow.

If it is nurtured good seed then we have a positive harvest.

However if poorly sown, then a bad harvest will ensue.

Knowing the truth sets us free - Jesus ransom sacrifice and all that it offers to us. We have no religious bondages, worldly bondages, no slave to the flesh or our earthly desires.

We have two freedoms:-

1. Earthly freedom to do as we will OR:-
2. The freedom that Jesus Christ offers us.

We either follow (1) and then open us up to suffer the problems that worldly freedom will inevitable give us. Or we follow (2) the freedom that Jesus gives us and we escape from the self-inflicted problems that the world gives us!

Rom. 6v16 Do you not know that if you yield yourselves to any one as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

Clearly if you are immoral, you are the slave to your sexual desires hence a slave of sin.
However if you chose obedience then you are a slave to God and his righteousness!

Hence in summary:-

You have two paths:-

Path (1) leads to death.

Results of worldly freedom.

Path (2) leads to life.

Result of obedience to God.

Responsibility:

We all must show responsibility within our lives.

The child must show responsibility as they grow.

As parents we must show responsibility to our siblings.

If we do not then life shall be taken away from us at some time in the future, because we are living for ourselves and not edifying our neighbour's needs (being the extension of a selfish nature to take for the self is unacceptable in Yahweh's new society)!

What do we crave for?

Rom. 12v1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Use the power of reason to understand this self-sacrificing.

This will lead to self-sacrificing life serving God in fulfilling His Desire.

Take as an example, a person decided to opt-out.

He went around the world doing what he wanted - he had his freedom!

However it dawned upon him that his freedom was:-

1. Leading to his harm, diseases perhaps unhappy associations, etc.

2. Living like parasite by taking the freedom from other.

Essentially he was being an opportunist and selfish.

He became a Christian and this verse stuck in his mind:-

Rom. 8v2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death.

In summary:-

1. Breakdown in family life - lack of time.

2. Educational system - lack of guidance.

3. Television - violence and sex makes it appear to be 'acceptable'

4. Lack of Godly devotion.

As the Bible says (Eccl.), the sun rises and the sun sets, the seasons come and go with regularity and truthful. The Bible has also prophesied things that have been demonstrated to have come true afterwards. Clearly The Bible has a meaningful sharing within our lives, it is filled with wisdom that I would suggest that we all should seek people who are good and solid in The Truth.

What future awaits us beyond this world of crises:-

Psalm 37v37 Mark the righteous man, and behold the upright, for there is posterity for the man of peace.