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# Reaching Out Through the Family

Xianity

Evangelism should begin in the family if we are God's beloved children.

He is the One who "so loved the world" It stands to reason that we should mirror in our own lives + our family's life that supernatural love for the lost souls all around us.

→ (2 ~~John~~ John says "we love because He first loved us" It is my conviction, however, that many of us have lost our radical commitment, possibly because we have been side-tracked

Ways:

① We can focus on many good Xian activities and neglect the most important one: "to seek + to save the lost" as Christ ~~the~~ commanded us to do.

② We can become so busy with home + children we get diverted from evangelism which is the nearest + dearest thing on the heart of God

Start HERE

③ We can lose our passion through discouragement from frustration or failure

④ Worst of all we can become complacent numbed overwhelmed by the worsening conditions in our culture. In the Wall St. Journal 12/10/93

Wm. Bennett "There is a coarseness, a callousness, a cynicism, a banality and a vulgarity in our time. Too many signs of a ~~culture~~ <sup>civilization</sup> gone rotten. And the worst of it has to do with our children - ~~it is~~ our culture is dedicated to the corruption of the young, to ensuring the loss of their innocence before their time."



Research on the Family

3 very young

Family

"The family is the basic unit of society"

love lost

"The family is the basic unit of society"

lost

good Xian

Words

Christ

busy with home children

diverted

lost God

lose

frustration or failure  
compensation

④ lost

1910 22

Tennant

"There is a connection between the loss of their innocence before their time and the loss of their innocence before their time"



2

Let's examine some reasons why we fail and falter in our attempts to be spiritually vibrant and radically committed to Christ's program

The reasons all boil down really to

Heart one — it's a heart problem

Heart Failures ① When our heart is not fully the Lord's — in Solomon's life it was foreign women

1Ki. 11:1-9 "Kings. However loved many foreign women"  
"Nevertheless, he held fast to them" ... his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God" ... "the Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart turned away"

In the same way our life with Christ is a cause + effect relationship — if we are seduced by the culture we will be swallowed up by it and "friendship with the world is enmity with God".

② When our heart is like the would-be disciples in the Luke 9 — a) the verbally-only committed  
b) the procrastinating selective partially committed  
c) the undecided because we don't really believe God has our best interests at heart

③ When our heart is lukewarm. This is often a recurring problem with several causes — fatigue, busy-ness, failure, complacency  
Christ addresses this problem in both the Laodicean + Ephesus churches — He says the missing element is love — the solution is to "remember" + "repent" —



not

Let's examine some reasons why we fail  
to make our attempts to be spiritually vibrant  
and biblically committed. The first program  
the reasons all fail seem to be to

### First problem

1. Unrealistic expectations

"I want to be like Paul and Silas" or "I want to be like the apostles" or "I want to be like the early church"

not

Realistic expectations  
"I want to be like Paul and Silas"

second

2. Wrong effort

swallow

eat

(a)

3. Only verbally

4. Partial

5. Uncommitted

6. Unobedient

7. Unrepentant

(b)

8. Unpersistent

9. Unbalanced

10. Unloving

11. Unfaithful

12. Unstable



③ To remember what? Our identification with Christ and the availability of His power. Losing that motivation of love is ingratitude: we've "forgotten our forgiveness" and our condition as unbelievers - the guilt, fear, despair and depression as unforgiven sinners.

To repeat means choosing to change our mind + the direction of our life. Agreeing with the Lord + living according to His truth, not our feelings.

When Christ is our first love all of our life becomes exciting and His agenda becomes ours.

Conversely, life becomes hopelessly confused and boring when our love for Christ diminishes, we lose interest and stop being involved in evangelizing the world. This indifference leads to self-deception + getting caught up with the world's values - even more troubling we transfer this attitude lifestyle to our children. Let me be very emphatic at this point:

NB We don't have to teach our kids to be selfish or to be consumed by the world's values + riches. They are bombarded at every age level to love the world, live like the world and love themselves - "me-first generation". They are fallen, depraved persons + their flesh responds gladly to the world's message with Satan's help. We as parents have a formidable responsibility - a responsibility we are utterly unable to live up to.