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*and more*

# *Christianfamily*

A bilingual magazine for Christian families | Vol 7, No 1, January - March 2022

Photo by Trisha McDaniel





# EDITORIAL

Can you believe *Christian Family* begins its seventh year with this issue? Moisés and I could not have imagined how well-received the magazine would be! We thank you for sharing it with others.

One lesson we can learn from Christ’s parable of the sower (Mark 4) is that there are a lot of distractions in the world. This makes parenting extra challenging. Our prayer is that this issue will give you encouragement as you accept your God-given role as a parent. Strengthening your own spirit by studying God’s Word is necessary to be the parent you need to be. Incorporating evangelism into your family routine is also important, and Brian and Rachel Howard share thoughts on how to do this. We pray this issue will bless you and your family.

*Paul Holland & Moisés Pinedo*



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*Christianfamily*  
Helping families become stronger in the Lord

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**Editors:** Paul Holland and Moisés Pinedo

**Proofreaders:** Daniel Jaramillo, Diana Shepard, Charlotte Jordan, Kerri Epling, Kimberley and Melanie Pinedo, and Rachel Holland

**Design and Presentation:** Moisés Pinedo

**Contact:** editorial@ebglobal.org

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# Assume Your Role as a Parent

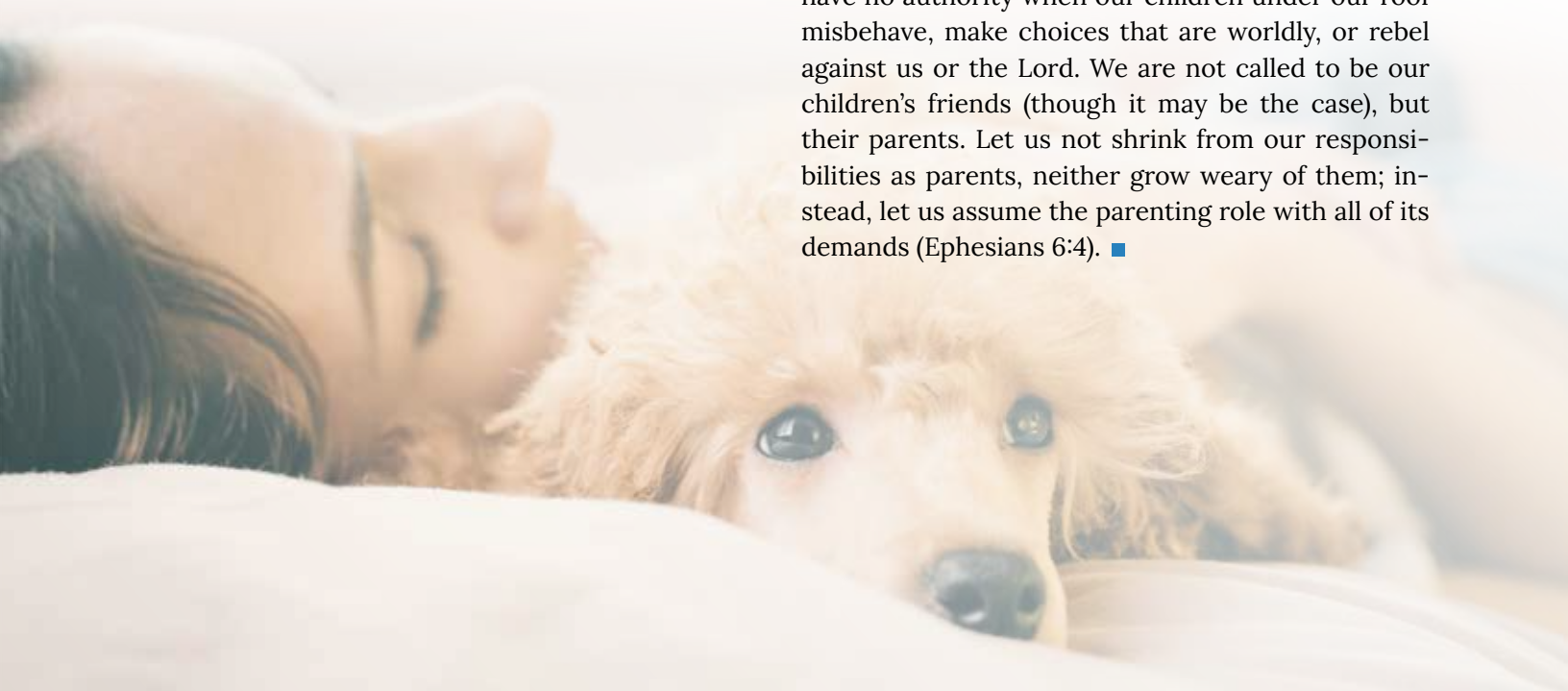
Moisés Pinedo

**A** while back, my wife was telling me that she had asked one of our daughters to take the dog outside, but she had not taken him out yet. She asked, “Would you tell her to do it now?” I said, “I will take care of it.” I went to my daughter’s room; there they were, the dog and her, still in bed. I looked straight at the eyes of...the dog, and said, “You, buddy, need to go pee!” and then I left. I was hoping my daughter would get the memo since the dog didn’t, but, as you can imagine, 30 minutes later they were still in bed. I had the authority to demand my daughter to obey, but I chose to be “funny” instead and hope for the best. That seemed like a fun idea at the time...until I realized mamma wasn’t happy.

Of course, you may choose to be “funny,” “nice,” or “cool” at one point in parenting without major consequences, but there are times when neglecting to assume our role as parents is more critical. In 1 Samuel 2-3, God pronounced serious prophecies against the house of Eli. The reason: “because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them” (3:13). As priests, Eli’s sons were supposed to be spiritual leaders; yet, they had abused their priesthood office

and had become completely immoral. Since God was pronouncing this against Eli, we would think that Eli never rebuked his sons, but this was not the case; in fact, he said to them, “Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people. No, my sons! For it is not a good report that I hear” (2:23-24). Why was God so angry with Eli if he did not approve of his children’s evil deeds and even rebuked them? The answer: Eli could have done more but he chose to play it “nice.” He was the chief priest and could have led the removal of his wicked sons from the priesthood and stopped the tabernacle’s rampant corruption. As a father under the OT Law, he could have brought the case to the elders of Israel (cf. Deuteronomy 21:18-20). However, he chose not to use either authority. He shrugged his shoulders and let the Lord handle **his** business (1 Samuel 3:18). Then the Lord fulfilled His prophecy against Eli and his household (1 Samuel 4).

What we learn from Eli’s story is that, when God invests authority on us, He expects and demands for us to assume that authority—whether in government, religion, or family. We cannot pretend we have no authority when our children under our roof misbehave, make choices that are worldly, or rebel against us or the Lord. We are not called to be our children’s friends (though it may be the case), but their parents. Let us not shrink from our responsibilities as parents, neither grow weary of them; instead, let us assume the parenting role with all of its demands (Ephesians 6:4). ■



# The art of **LOVING** *Song of Solomon 5 & 6*

Paul Holland

**T**he Bible has much to say about our intimate relationships—an average of three times per book for 66 books! The Bible has much to say about this relationship from a negative perspective, but God has devoted one book to the married love relationship: The Song of Solomon. Solomon is mentioned in the book seven times. He wrote 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs. But this one is the climax! It is the “Song of Songs” (1:1).

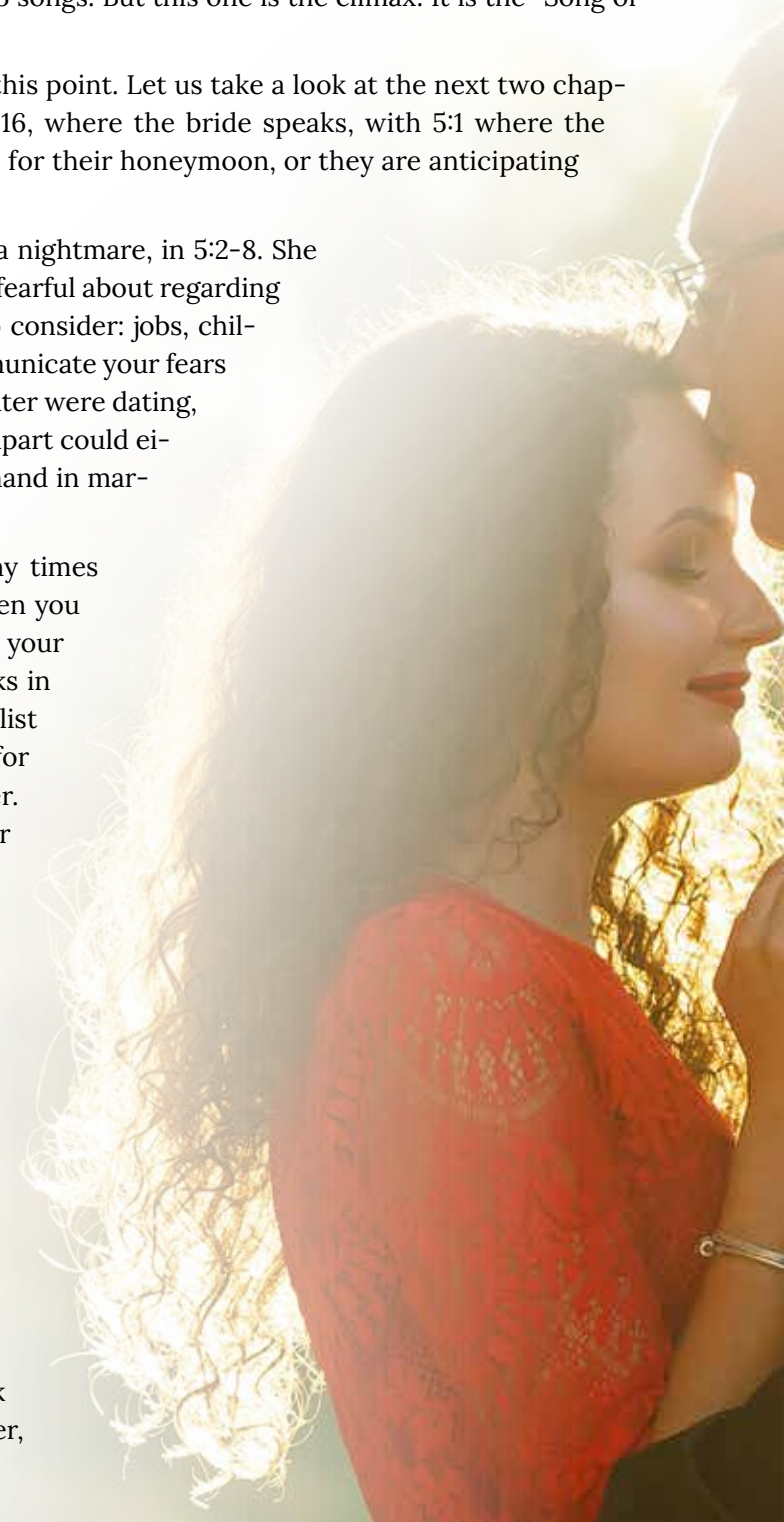
We have meditated on the first four chapters up to this point. Let us take a look at the next two chapters. The highpoint of the song is 4:16-5:1. Compare 4:16, where the bride speaks, with 5:1 where the groom speaks. They have either come together, perhaps for their honeymoon, or they are anticipating being together.

However, then the bride seems to have a dream, or a nightmare, in 5:2-8. She fears physical assault (vs. 7). There are many things to be fearful about regarding the honeymoon and marriage. There are many things to consider: jobs, children, discipline, in-law relationships, etc. You must communicate your fears and work through them. When our son-in-law and daughter were dating, she spent some time in Europe. I told him that this time apart could either make or break their relationship. He proposed her hand in marriage soon after she returned!

Highlight, as you read through the Song, how many times “beloved” is used. It is found 33 times in 8 chapters. When you are uncomfortable, shouldn’t you remind yourself and your spouse of your love and commitment? The chorus speaks in 5:9 and asks, basically, “What kind of guy is he?” Make a list of the positive qualities in your spouse; write one quality for every year you’ve been married. Then give it to him or her. Focus on the good and positive. Ask God to forgive you for focusing on the negative.

The bride speaks in 5:10-16, giving a description of his physical attributes. This is the longest physical description of a male in the Bible! When she describes him as “friend” in verse 16, she is expressing equality and respect. What will it take for you and your spouse to be “best friends?”

As the bride speaks in 6:2-3, we see this mutual love and commitment to each other. The groom speaks in 6:4-9 and reaffirms his love for her. If your love has grown cold and stale, what do you need to do to reignite that love and passion? First, **quit doing what you are currently doing!** Stop whatever you are doing now that is contributing to a cold, lifeless marriage! Talk to your spouse and decide what you need to do, together, to reignite the flame of passion.





The bride speaks again in 6:11-12, feeling overwhelmed by his interest in her. How much humility serves a role in a strong marriage relationship! Successful marriage is not about **receiving** but about **giving**. Talk to your spouse and explain that you would like your marriage to “hit on all six cylinders” but you do not feel like it is doing that. Make a list of things you will do differently to help your marriage be stronger and better and more passionate. Then start doing them! Do not just wait for him or her to “catch up” with you. Go all out. Act like you have to court him or her all over again. The very process of doing this will surely reignite the passion in the other which has grown cold through indifference. ■

## *The way of* **LOVE**

*Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.*

*—1 Corinthians 13:4-8*



Kerri Epling



# JOHN THE BAPTIZER

## The Forerunner of Christ



*The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God” (Isaiah 40:3).*

*“Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” says the Lord of hosts (Malachi 3:1).*

For our study in this issue, we will take a slightly different approach to our lesson. This time, we will do more of a character study of an important person in Scripture. The texts to consider for this study are Isaiah 40:3-5, Malachi 3:1, 4:5, Luke 1, John 1, Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3:21-22, and Matthew 14:1-2.

## Important questions to ask in any character study

- What character traits, strengths, and weaknesses are found in this person?
- What is his significance in Scripture? Why do we read about him?
- What is his relationship with God? How does he interact with others?
- What settings (time, location, etc.) in Scripture do we find this character in?
- How can we apply what we learn about him to our own lives?

## Specific questions to consider about John the Baptizer

- Who were John's parents?
- What was special about his birth?
- How was he related to Christ?
- What was his mission? (Consider this in light of OT prophecies.)
- What message did he preach (Matthew 3:2)?
- Why is he sometimes referred to as John "the Baptist" or John "the Baptizer"?
- How did John feel about himself compared to Jesus?
- Why was Jesus baptized by John? What was confirmed at His baptism?
- Even John needed reassurance at times (Matthew 11:2-6; Luke 7:18-23). Is it wrong for us to look for evidence and assurance that Jesus is Who He says He is?
- What can we learn from the death of John about serving God? How far was he willing to follow Jesus?

## Questions for children

- Where did John live as an adult?
- What did he eat?
- What did he wear?
- What happened when he baptized Jesus? ■

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For further study about John, please visit the YouTube channel for the Elizabethton church of Christ and view the sermon from the 1/9/22 PM service. The lesson begins at about 33 minutes.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at [kerriepling@gmail.com](mailto:kerriepling@gmail.com) with email subject of "Christian Family Study."

## Suggestions for interaction with children

Children love learning about John's clothing and diet. Let them feel rough clothing to imagine wearing itchy camel's hair. Prepare "bugs and honey" snack. (One idea is to shape rolls/crescent rolls into bugs and use raisins for eyes, pretzels for legs or antennae, etc. and brush with honey once the rolls are baked.)

John pointed the way to Jesus so people could see Him and realize Who He was. Cut out some paper arrows and have your children write on them examples of evidence of God or Jesus in their lives. Put them on the refrigerator or the wall to remind everyone to look for Jesus. Encourage them to share these ways with others to point people to Jesus.

# the Howards

...are a family of six: Brian and Rachel and their four children, Taylor (20), McKayla (12), Caitlyn (10), and Brooklyn (7). As a minister's family, they have moved around quite a bit. Brian and Rachel started their marriage as missionaries in British Columbia, Canada, and have since lived in Florida, Indiana, Texas, and now Georgia. They have spent most of that time as a preacher's family, but Brian has also served as the Development Director for World Video Bible School for four years; now he serves as the founder/director of the Soaring for Souls mission work ([www.soaringfor-souls.com](http://www.soaringfor-souls.com)). Rachel is a Registered Nurse, but currently works at home with the important task of homeschooling their three daughters.



Photos by Trisha McDaniel

## In one word, would you describe each member of your family?

**Brian—hardworking.** Brian works hard as a Christian leader in our home and in providing for our family. The mission work he has founded has been a tremendous amount of work but also a lifelong dream to serve the Lord in this capacity.

**Rachel—dedicated.** Rachel has put aside her career in nursing for the sake of ensuring our children are raised and taught biblical principles through their schoolwork. She diligently seeks to provide unique learning experiences, even outside of the classroom.

**Taylor—helpful.** Taylor is always trying to help others. He is now preparing himself for a life of service as he attends the Southwest School of Bible Studies in Austin, Texas to become a Gospel preacher.

**McKayla—perfectionist.** McKayla will work on something until it is perfect. She does this in her schoolwork, bedroom, chores, when learning new skills, and in every aspect of life.

**Caitlyn—compassionate.** Caitlyn has one of the most tender hearts we have ever known. She is always concerned about the welfare of others and is hypersensitive to any injustice.

**Brooklyn—entertaining.** Brooklyn enjoys making people laugh and she is very good at it. There is never a dull moment in our house with her around.

## What is your spiritual background/journey?

Rachel was raised in the church by her mother. Her father was Jewish, but her mother never let that stand in the way of taking Rachel and her brother, Richard, to church services three times a week. Rachel's maternal grandparents were also a big influence in her spiritual walk.

I (Brian) did not grow up going to church; my mother was an erring member. When I was 22 years old, my mother died of cancer. Before she passed away, however, the preacher came by the house and





was able to help her be restored to Christ (1 John 1:9; James 5:19-20). He and I quickly struck up a friendship and began studying together; I obeyed the Gospel soon thereafter. There were a lot of initial challenges for me—learning to get rid of worldly language, actions, and sometimes even friends who did not respect my new walk with Christ. No sacrifice was too great compared to what our Lord did for us.

### What does “evangelism” mean to your family?

“Evangelism” is a lifestyle, not just an activity or a church program that we can do every now and then. Most of the people we see at the grocery store, out in the community, or even among family and friends are lost souls. Evangelism is getting out of our comfort zone to teach them because their eternal soul is at stake. If our children do not see us trying to reach the lost, they most likely will not grow up to be soul-winners. Sharing the Good News about Christ is at the very heart of being children of God. When we truly love Him and appreciate the sacrifice that He made, it is only natural to want to tell others about Him.



### What are some ways we can involve our family, even our children, in evangelism?

One of our favorite ways that involves the entire family and is so easy to do, is by passing out evangelism material from World Video Bible School. There have been a number of times when the girls would ask, “Do you have an evangelism card to give to the waitress?” They do this for waitresses, grocery store clerks, hotel maids, and anywhere we go. Just the other day we were at a restaurant with the adults at one table and children at the other. We overheard the girls talking to the waitress about where she went to church, and then they also gave her an evangelism card and invited her to church services. Evangelism is a way of life and must be demonstrated by parents for the children to get excited. Once they are excited, they are often better than the adults at talking to people.



### How does hospitality play a role in evangelism?

Hospitality is a huge part of evangelism. Texting, social media, video games, and other devices seem to have moved society away from hospitality. But hospitality presents a tremendous opportunity for us as Christians to shine our lights. People are more desperate for social connection than we often realize. Inviting guests into our home provides an intimate setting that helps to build trust in the relationship. Once you show them that you truly care, a Bible study relationship often comes naturally.



Hospitality is an entire family project. The kids help with readying the house for visitors, keeping the other children busy, and helping to clean up afterwards. This helps to instill in them a long-term hospitality mindset.

**Would you briefly relate a conversion story that has impacted your family in a unique way?**

Brian: The conversion of my dad is easily our favorite conversion story. As mentioned, while growing up in Indiana my family did not attend any church service that often. About four years ago, while my family was living in Texas, my dad and his “girlfriend” came to visit us from Indiana. We asked if they would like to have a Bible study and, to our surprise and great delight, they agreed. We used the “Back to the Bible” booklets by Bobbie Bates. For three consecutive nights, we sat at the table and studied these lessons. When it came to repentance, we did not have to say anything, but they knew they needed to get married or stop living together if they were going to be right with the Lord. After making the decision to repent, we went to the very cold church building with a freezing baptistry (the devil was really trying to keep them) for them to be washed clean from their sins. A few months later, I was blessed to officiate my dad’s wedding. These two blessings have been two of the highlights of our life.

**Would you give us any other suggestions to incorporate evangelism in our daily lives?**

Be the example in evangelism in your home. When children see parents actively showing hospitality and evangelism, they are learning more than just how to evangelize; they are learning the importance and the value of soul winning.

Show them that evangelism is not “adult stuff”; it is for everyone. Involve the kids in door knocking and have them talk to the waiters and waitresses, friends and family, and others about the Gospel.

Carry around WVBS invitation cards that are linked to evangelistic videos to pass out and leave in strategic places. Public bulletin boards, local businesses, hotels, and restaurants are all perfect places to leave these. It is even better if you can hand them personally. Remember that our job is simply to sow the seed. We have succeeded when we have done just that. ■



Photos by Trisha McDaniel





# the IMPORTANCE of EVANGELISM

Brian Howard

**In** a high school Bible class one time, the teacher asked, “Why is evangelism important?” No one made eye contact and the room went silent. The question was changed, “What is evangelism?” More silence! These high school students had grown up in the church and had never been taught about evangelism. It was not being demonstrated in their homes. It was not being taught from the pulpit, or through Bible classes, or being exemplified by any of the members. What happened to evangelism in the Lord’s church?

God makes it clear that His children are to be soul-winners. Jesus gave the charge to, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). Christianity is a taught religion, and it must be taught by disciples of Jesus Christ. When the church fails in this responsibility and thus fails to teach the younger generation, it does not take very long before that congregation no longer exists. This is being played out multiple times over in the United States. Studies have shown that churches of Christ are closing their doors at an alarming rate. But the intention of this article is

not to paint a picture of doom and gloom; instead, it is to show the tremendous need for soul-winning by every child of God.

## Evangelism Solves Problems

No congregation is perfect because they all have imperfect people in them. However, evangelism is the answer to many problems plaguing local congregations today. When the focus shifts to reaching the lost and praying for the latest Bible study, who has time to complain about the sermon or gossip about a sister in Christ? The style of new carpet or the color of the walls do not seem as important when people are having their sins washed away in the baptism every week. These new converts bring more activity and new life into the congregation. Preachers do not get burned out because soul-winning is too exciting!

Walking in the door of a mission-minded and evangelistically led congregation is immediately noticeable. The church is alive! How can more congregations become this way? A plan for evangelism must be developed!

## Develop an Evangelism Plan

The wise man wrote, “The plans of the diligent *lead* surely to plenty, but *those* of everyone *who* is hasty,

surely to poverty” (Proverbs 21:5). Personal plans are made for businesses, vacations, and even meal preparation. Churches make plans for holiday parties, senior banquets, youth activities, and donation giveaways. There is nothing wrong with any of these programs, but the focus must be on reaching the lost. In fact, every activity on the church schedule should focus on saving lost souls.

Evangelism must become the major topic of discussion in every elder’s meeting. Souls are at stake! Where do we find these lost souls? Oftentimes they are sitting in the pew each Sunday. Lost souls are all around us, and churches must develop a plan to reach them. Resources are available from brotherhood works like World Video Bible School and House to House that will help in establishing these plans.

## CONCLUSION

If the trend of declining membership in the Lord’s body is going to change in America, churches must be deliberate in their approach to evangelism. Programs must be developed to reach lost souls! Focusing on saving souls will allow less time for problems to develop in local congregations. Let us pray that every child of God will become more evangelistic minded and a soul-winning example for the next generation to follow. ■



# YOU'RE NOT GOING TO THE PROM?

Allen Webster

**L**et's face it. Christian teens are in a social pressure cooker. They are **in** the world but are not **of** the world (1 John 2:15-17). They desire to fit in with the crowd, but they stand out like a light in a dark room (Matthew 5:16). In a sin-sick society, they are indeed peculiar (Titus 2:14).

Still, to remain faithful through the teen years, they need the strong backing of their parents, Bible teachers, Christian friends, elders, and preachers. They need Bible answers to today's questions (1 Peter 3:15). They need lines drawn and sin spelled out. They need to know what is right and what is wrong and why.

Many times, Christian teens face a bewildered friend who asks, "You're not going to the prom? This is the biggest event of your senior year! Why aren't

you going?" Patiently, yet confidently, they can explain why they do not dance.

**"I do not want to put impure thoughts in my mind."**

God's teens have set a goal of saving themselves sexually for their future marriage partner. Most young people in the world have set no such goal—frankly, some are trying to have as many sexual partners as possible before marriage. They constantly have dirty thoughts—they want to lust after their girlfriends; they fantasize about their boyfriends. Many of them openly talk of their plans to have sex after the prom. To them, dancing is just the appetizer before the meal.

Even non-religious people recognize this problem with dancing. In 2001, *World Magazine* stated, "This year's prom season is causing turmoil at schools across America: Dancing has become so sexually explicit that some officials call it sex with clothes on and many want it stopped."<sup>1</sup> Someone put it plainly: "Dancing is a vertical expression of a horizontal desire."

Christians are different. Sure, the same hormones run through their bodies. They would enjoy dancing and sex just as much as anyone, but they have enough self-discipline to wait. They know that sexual sin begins in the eyes (Matthew 5:28). They know that lust is not of the Father but of the world (1 John 2:16; cf. James 1:15; 2 Peter 1:4). They know it is inconsistent to pray, "do not lead us into temptation" (Matthew 6:13), and then go dancing. So, they keep their minds pure. Jesus promised them, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8).

A few adults deny it, but teens know that dancing is based on sex appeal. Even the *Encyclopedia Britannica* admits, "To a certain extent all dancing is sexually stimulating."<sup>2</sup> Embracing, swaying to music, and suggestive gyrations cannot help but produce sexual desire in dancers' minds.



In Matthew 18:8-9, Jesus used a graphic illustration of the seriousness of avoiding sin; we might paraphrase this to say, “It is better to enter into heaven not having gone to the senior prom, than having gone, to be cast into hell fire.” Our teens are honest enough to admit that dancing would put sexual/lascivious thoughts into their minds. They want no part of what Paul said would keep them from heaven (Galatians 5:19-21).

### **“I don’t want to cause my boyfriend, or girlfriend, to lust after me.”**

Christian teens also recognize their duty to help their friends to avoid sin (1 Corinthians 8:11-13; 10:32). True friends strengthen each other’s hands in God (1 Samuel 23:16). If a boyfriend and girlfriend cannot glorify God together, then they should not stay together (Psalm 34:3; 1 Corinthians 10:31).

Dancing promotes sexual thoughts, which are sinful; and causing another to sin is serious: “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea” (Matthew 18:6).

The word “dance” is found 27 times in the Bible. Most of the time it simply means to “jump up and down with joy”—as when David “danced” before the ark when it came back to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6:14,16; cf. Exodus 15:20; Psalm 149:3-4). (This would be similar to the way we act when our team scores a touchdown at a ball game; there is nothing wrong with jumping up and shouting for joy.) At other times, the word is used of men and women dancing together in what we call “dancing” today, and every time it is used in this sense in the Bible, it is condemned (cf. Exodus 32:7,19,25; Matthew 14:6-7).

### **“I don’t want to hurt my influence with others.”**

Young Christians who have worked hard to gain and maintain good reputations do not want to waste them for one event. To them, a good name is worth more than a few hours of social fun, popularity, and pleasure (cf. Proverbs 11:21; 22:1; Ecclesiastes 2:9-11; Hebrews 11:24-26). The young people who take a stand for Christ are the ones who lead others to

Christ (cf. 1 Peter 3:1-2). They are cities set upon a hill which cannot be hid (Matthew 5:14). Their positive peer pressure is more powerful than the world’s negative peer pressure (2 Corinthians 3:2).

On the other hand, sinning Christians—of whatever age—harm the church (3 John 9-11) and make Jesus sick (Revelation 3:15-17). When friends see one who claims to be a Christian involved in the lustful atmosphere of a dance, they think less of the church and its Head. Who could honestly picture Christ dancing at a prom (cf. 1 Peter 2:21-22)?

For some, the prom is a rite of passage. It is seen as a turning point, a half step into adulthood, or a test of maturity. Christians have a different perspective. There is nothing wrong with dressing up, wearing makeup, getting nails and hair done, or even staying out past normal curfew. Yet the Bible says you can judge a tree by its fruit (Matthew 7:16). Statistically, some of the worst things that happen to teens happen at prom night, graduation night, and homecoming night: pregnancy, drunk driving, car accidents, rape, and more. It is the sinful things associated with the prom that Christians should have no part of. Lust, immodest dress, vanity, pride, wasting money, getting drunk, and renting a hotel to have sex may make one feel older, but they do not make one an adult. Instead, such actions show spiritual immaturity.

In some areas, proms are losing popularity as banquets are coming into vogue. In some schools, it is possible to go to a banquet that is held separate from dancing. Some churches have prom-alternative events so young people can get dressed up, enjoy some time with a date, and not have to be in a sinful environment. Our teens can have fun, so long as sin is not involved.

Young people, take your stand for Christ in front of your friends. Live as though Christ died yesterday and is coming tomorrow! ■

1. “The Buzz,” *World Magazine*, May 19, 2001, <https://wng.org/articles/the-buzz-1617340191>.
2. Brown, A. R., “Dance,” *Encyclopedia Britannica* (Chicago, IL: Encyclopedia Britannica, 1956), 7:4.

# I'VE GOT THE JOY, JOY, JOY, JOY

Alexis Babenko

One song I love singing at Vacation Bible School is “I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy,” because it describes how amazing being a child of God is. Every morning I find joy in the beautiful sunrise because of all the diverse colors God puts in the sky. This joy comes from appreciating the little things and not needing material things to satisfy me. This song reminds me of that because God teaches us to find joy and comfort in Him. By having joy in your heart, you begin to see the beauty in the world.

This view of life will allow others to see Jesus shining through you. Always let joy lead you to the bright side of life and out of worry and fear, because God is always there for you. He will forever have things and people around you to give you joy, if you look to Him.

This song also mentions having love, and I love “love.” Having love makes you a kinder person, because you will want to share that love with everyone. An amazing example of love is Jesus. He showed love to so many people: the apostles, the tax collectors, the sinners, and the men and women He healed. He even died on the cross because He wants all of us to make it to heaven by being baptized and following Him. Now, that’s something to be super joyful over! By following His example, we too, can have the “love of Jesus” down in our hearts.

The song also mentions having the “peace that passes understanding”; but what is that? This is where you have such a strong faith and relationship with God that you fear no danger or troubles that may come. Though from time to time you may be afraid, going to God will give you strength because you know He will help you through whatever you are going through. Remember the story of Noah’s Ark? I bet Noah was a little scared of the rocking boat, but his faith in God was so much stronger than his fear, and he trusted that God would protect him. Noah had peace that passed all understanding.

Lastly, everyone’s favorite verse, “if the devil doesn’t like it, he can sit on a tack (ouch)!” Satan tries very hard every day to find our weakness, and when he does, he begins to lead us away from God. But we can’t let him do that. By praying every day for strength, putting God in







Illustration by Kelsey Pinedo (age 12)



the forefront of your mind, and reading God's Word, you will be a lot closer with God and it will be much harder for Satan to lead you astray. God tells us in the Bible that in the end the devil will get what is coming to him, much worse than sitting on a tack.

When I think of how amazing it is to be loved by someone who loves and chose me to be here, who forgives me and blesses me, I can't help but have joy in my heart! ■

## JOY OR SORROW?

Look at the Bible verses to find out if the following people felt joy or sorrow. Then complete their face by drawing a corresponding smiley or a sad mouth.

**Nabal**

(1 Samuel 25:37)



**David**

(Psalm 122:1)



**Hannah**

(1 Samuel 1:8)



**Jesus**

(Luke 10:21)



**Eunuch**

(Acts 8:39)



**Rich Young Ruler**

(Matthew 19:22)



**Ahab**

(1 Kings 21:4-5)



Online and printed Spanish materials for children at [www.ebherencia.org](http://www.ebherencia.org)  
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**Q:** *How do we know when there is love among spouses?* —LA ROMANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Love is more than a feeling. It is action; it is behavior. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and see the results of love in the heart: kindness, patience, humility, gentleness, forgiveness, trust. When these behaviors are shown in one's life, they illustrate that love is in the heart. When one spouse wants what is best for the other spouse, regardless of how the decision impacts the spouse, then he or she is acting on love. When you "treat the other the way you want the other to treat you" (Matthew 7:12), you are living love. —PH

**Q:** *How can I teach moral values to my children?*—HIDALGO, MEXICO

Be sure you know what you are wanting to teach. Moral values are listed in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Ephesians 4:25-5:4, Colossians 3:12-14, Galatians 5:22-24, and 2 Peter 1:5-10. Once you have the moral values in the front of your mind, then read the Bible, or Bible story books that present the stories accurately, and point out where the person reflects proper or improper moral values. Also, read the Gospel accounts with your child and point out where Jesus lived proper moral values; He is our standard. Finally, when you watch cartoons or other shows, you can also point out how the characters are reflecting moral values. Always show where good values will produce good results. —PH

**Q:** *How can I help my family avoid temptations?* —CARACAS, VENEZUELA

Temptations will come, but we can help our families remain strong by focusing on two things: (1) Instruction. Teach your family to pray for strength in temptation (Matthew 6:13). Teach them to keep busy with things that are good (Philippians 4:8). Teach them daily the Word of God that will assist them in overcoming temptation (Matthew 4:1-11). When yielding to temptation, rebuke and correction are to be promptly implemented (cf. Galatians 6:1). (2) Prevention. Prevent ungodly influences from entering your home. Some of these influences may come through: (a) The internet. Get a filter, limit usage time, and forbid unsupervised browsing for your children. (b) The TV. Again, limit screen time and supervise the kind of programs your children watch. (c) Friendships. Get to know your children's friends and have some rules for the choosing of close friends. (d) Other media. Supervise books, magazines, and other materials to which your children have access. (e) Examples. When possible, avoid places where your children may learn negative behavior or be exposed to temptation. Set the right example for your family. —MP ■

To ask a family-related question to the editors, go to:

[www.ebglobal.org/info/cfq](http://www.ebglobal.org/info/cfq)

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