

Entertainment More Valued Than Church Attendance

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One reason for the breakdown of morals and the spread of violence in America is the decline of worshipping God. Fifty years ago, most people in America attended church, knew the Ten Commandments and kept their homes together because they saw it as the right thing to do.

Now, the majority of people do not attend church regularly, few know the Ten Commandments and many couples only maintain a marriage relationship if it makes them happy.

Many people who do not attend church today were taken to church when they were children. Because of the influence of Christianity in their lives, they maintain many of the Biblical teachings especially those that deal with respecting others.

However, these persons who quit going to church are now the parents of today. Their teens have never had the moral teachings of the church. Their families do not have the support system of other Christians. Instead of the Godly influence of a Sunday school class, many of today's children are given an education of endless violence and sex through television, the internet and video games.

Churches should do all they can to make it as easy as possible for people to return to God. God tells us to "Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people." (Isaiah 57:14)

However, following Christ must never become something to do only when it is convenient or easy. Jesus warned that *"...small is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life, and only a few find it"* (Matthew 7:14). The fact is, no matter what churches do, no one worships God by accident. People who attend church do it because it is important to them. There are always other things to do. In the end, we give our time to what is most important to us.

Children tend to copy the values of their parents. If the most important thing for adults is to be happy, and to see that their children are happy, then children grow up seeking happiness above everything else.

The American definition of happiness is to get all you want whenever you want it. Unfortunately, this type of "happiness" leads to frustration, selfishness and even violence as people grab for what they think they deserve.

On the other hand, the Biblical definition of happiness is to do what is right, to help others, and to better society. People who seek happiness by doing what is good and right end up with a sense of purpose, a good conscience and a spirit of thanksgiving.

People today wonder why kids kill kids in school, why teenagers destroy their bodies with drugs, alcohol or tobacco, why young ladies become mothers long before they are ready and why road rage is on the rise.

Part of the answer is simpler than we want to admit. Television, the internet and video games have become more important than church attendance, reading the Bible and following God. Spring is a wonderful time to put God back into your life again — not just for your sake, but for your family as well.