

Crossville Church of Christ

P.O. Box 211

Crossville, TN 38557

Phone

484-5297 or 484-2960

Fax 707-0025

COMPASS

Using God's Word to Chart The Course
Of A Congregation

www.crossvillechurchofchrist.org

Email: Office@crossvillechurchofchrist.org

Elders@crossvillechurchofchrist.org



Elders:

Frank Bohannon
Jiggs Killgore
Jonathan Loveday
Larry McDuffee
Brian McLaughlin
Jon Tatum

Deacons:

Jim Bell
Charles Evans
Kyle Fairman
Dale Hennessee
Mike Isaacson
David Kerley
Doug Loveday
Greg Maxwell
Don Napier
Tom Parham
Mark Roberts
Roger Smith
Jason Wyatt
Jerry Wood

Ministers:

Barry Kennedy
Ken Mears

Missionaries: (India)

Don Iverson
Jim Waldron

Service Times

Sunday Bible Study	9 AM
Sunday Worship	10 AM
	6 PM
Wednesday	6 PM

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Ladies Bible Class	
Tuesdays	11AM
Prayer Meeting	
Tuesdays	10 AM
Joyful Generation (Youth Devotional & fellowship)	
1st Sunday	7:00 PM

December 13, 2015



*“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise: be
thankful unto him, and bless his
name” (Psalm 100:4).*

IT'S ALL FOR THE CHILDREN

Barry Kennedy

How many times have parents made this statement? It usually follows a discussion about the hectic schedule they are trying to juggle in this fast paced world of ballgames, homework, social get-togethers, and the list goes on and on. When there seems to be no end in sight, the fallback statement is "It's all for the children." No doubt, most parents want the very best for their children. Sadly, far too many parents do not know what is best for them. It has been said many times, "Children do not come with an instruction manual." Of course, many books have been written by "experts" in the field of child rearing, but writing a book does not necessarily make one an authority. Every child is different and thus requires different measures in their upbringing. The area where many parents go wrong is in the avenue of priority. So what should parents be offering their children when they say, "It's all for the children?"

Parents not Playmates. It may seem impossible to imagine a parent not wanting to play with their children. What joy it brings to the heart of the family to spend time together in play. However, this seems very contradictory to the point that children need parents not playmates. Of course, one must consider that moderation is the key. There is a time for play and parents need to offer their children wholesome and nurturing opportunities to play. That does not take away the God given command that parents have to discipline and instruct those same children in the way that they should go *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"* (Proverbs 22:6).

The difference in a playmate and a parent is in the boundaries we set. The world offers many avenues from which our children can choose. Many parents find themselves wanting their children to have what they may not have experienced in their own childhood. Those who may not have had the privilege of play in their youth might find themselves offering their children an overdose of play and not offering the structure that parents are to provide (Ephesians 6:4).

Time not Trinkets. Another area where some parents deceive themselves in thinking it's all for the children is in the way parents purchase things to buy their children's affection. Of course, most of those who are guilty would never admit that this is what they are doing. Some find themselves feeling guilty because of all the time spent in careers, personal hobbies, and such, that they find themselves buying things to avoid the real problem. When one considers what God's Word has to say about rearing children, he cannot help but to see what God understands, parenting takes time. *"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up"* (Deuteronomy 6:6, 7). God made it very clear to the children of Israel that his gifts needed time. Time to a child is opportunity to build the foundation for their future. Time, not trinkets, will prepare these precious gifts for their eternity. Every moment we have to listen, or to make a spiritual application to the circumstances they are facing, is one more step toward a future with God.

God has blessed mankind with a beautiful gift. That gift is the gift of children (Psalm 127:3). What we need to realize is that God wants them back. No doubt, there are many parents who are striving to offer their children the best this life can give. What far too many fail to realize is that the only thing this life has to offer that is of any value is the preparation for the day of judgment. When we bring life into this world we take upon ourselves an awesome responsibility to nurture those precious gifts in the admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Could it be possible that all the "things" that we do are really for our children? Do we truly have their best interests in mind or are we just trying to appease them? Maybe we are just trying to get them out of our hair? We must remember that our children are a blessing from God, and we must prepare them for their eternity; that is the greatest gift that we can give to our children. When we inventory our time and our parenting, we are forced to ask the question, can we truly say, "It's All for the Children."

HE HAS NEVER DROPPED A CALL

Patrick Morrison

Where would we be without cell phone technology? Within the span of about twenty years, cell phones have become an almost indispensable part of our everyday lives. Not too many years ago you were in the minority if you had a cell phone. These days, you are considered odd, out of date, or technologically challenged if you do not possess one. It seems we cannot live without them. Younger generations cannot fathom a time when there were no cell phones. Everywhere you go and almost everyone you see has a phone to their ear or in their hands. They have become so ingrained in our lives that evidently our own government considers a cell phone a right to which all should have access. There can be no doubt that cell phone technology has made some aspects of our lives easier. We have within our hands a map, entertainment in the form of movies and music, a calendar, an organizer, an alarm clock, a virtual wallet, a camera, a checkbook, and a host of other gizmos and gadgets all rolled into one. Many even have a Bible downloaded on their phones (I have a number of different versions that I can access at any given time). And to top it all off, you can even make calls and send text messages with them (We almost forgot that our cell phones will do this since we are so enraptured by all the other great things they will do!)! This convenience comes at a price. Not only do these smartphones cost money to operate and keep up, but the apps that we are so fond of sometimes cost money to use as well. Then there is the cost of constant stimulation and the havoc that causes to our bodies. Though a cell phone is a nice convenience, at times it can be a nuisance.

There are some lessons that we have learned over time with the use of this new technology. While cell phones can be wonderful, they can also be aggravating. Who among us hasn't experience a dropped call while in the middle of a very important conversation? It seems that these dropped calls never occur at an opportune time. Maybe you have learned the painful and expensive lesson of roaming outside of your coverage area. While this is becoming less common with increased coverage areas, it is still a necessary concern. If you have ever had the misfortune of wandering outside of your coverage area and not realizing it, it was likely a very costly mistake. Then there is the idea that a cell phone does us no good if we are not using it. Why pay for all of the features and apps if you never use those things?

I am thankful that we have an open line to the throne of God (1 Pet.5:7). We can communicate with Him at any time and in any place (Psa.34:4; 66:19; 120:1). We have the assurance that as we pray according to His will that He will hear us (1 John 5:14). This line of communication is guaranteed, for God has never dropped a call (1 Pet.3:10-12). So long as we abide by the contract (our commitment to faithfully serve God each day), then we have the confidence that our prayers will be answered (1 John 3:22). We must make sure that we remain within the coverage area, for roaming away from the love, grace, and protection of God is a very costly thing, indeed (John 15:10; Jude 21; Gal.5:4)! As children of God, we must avail ourselves of every opportunity to call upon Him in prayer (1 Thess.5:17; Col.4:2). This line of communication does us no good if we are unwilling to use it! Why would Jesus pay such a tremendous price for a privilege that we use only sparingly, if at all? Let us call upon God while He is near (Isa.55:6). His line is always open, and He is longing to hear from you!

