



Sunday – May 05, 2024

The Lakeland Hills Leader

Lakeland Hills church of Christ

2510 Lakeland Hills Blvd
Lakeland, FL 33805
(863) 688-4336

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:00 AM Bible Study
9:50 AM Worship
6:00 PM Worship

Wednesday

7:00 PM Bible Study

Visit our Website:

www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com

For Sermon & Class outlines,
Bible Study Materials and
Other Information.

Visit our Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/LakelandHillschurchofchrist for events,
information, and links to our
YouTube Archives

Visit us on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCu7AG_3jUtpBDIr2NPqB3iw for
Live Streams and Video
Archives.

Elders

Bob Marschall
Leon Miller
Larry Wisdom

Deacons

Bucky Day
Sherman Johnson
Michael Sadler
David Williams

Evangelist

Chuck Kozens

Making Wise Choices in an Immoral Society

We as Christians today, live in a sinful, immoral, and lascivious society. God has given us rules and safeguards to guide our lives in times like these.

There is a danger of ignoring these rules and safeguards and losing our direction. This results in making bad choices in our lives through the influence of a wicked society that calls evil good and good evil. This is especially true for our children who are leaving home to begin life on their own. Whether it is to college for an education or to enter the workforce to make a living, there is a great temptation for young people to engage in drinking alcohol, smoking marijuana, as well as the taking of other drugs. There is a great temptation for them to act in a lude or lascivious manner or to commit fornication. Many children whom we thought were well grounded in the faith have gone off to our nation's colleges, or began the journey on their own and become involved in these and other sins. Many have taken on the habit of smoking and are addicted to nicotine, or alcohol. Some have suffered consequences that are irreversible and will follow them the rest of their lives.

We have all faced our own sins and temptations in our time, but I don't think we as parents or grandparents, who grew up in a different time, and in many ways a different world, realize how great a temptation our children or grandchildren are facing when they enter today's society. What can one do in the face of such great temptation, and what can we as parents do to prepare our children for living in the world and yet be separate from its temptations and sinful practices?

First, we must teach our children to love God with all their heart, mind and soul (*Matt.22:37*). God has created us and loves us so much that He made provision for our salvation through the giving of His Son, Jesus Christ (*John 3:16*). He cares for us daily with blessings more abundant than we deserve. He is kind, loving, patient, merciful, and longsuffering (*Ps.103:8; Lk.6:36; 2 Pet.3:9*). In return He desires and demands our obedience promising an eternal home with Him in Heaven as a reward for our faithfulness (*Rom.5:21*). We have to instill this love in our children's hearts.

Second, we must teach our children what is right and true. He has also given us His Word to guide us and teach us the proper way to lead our lives, and the proper direction for living (*2 Tim.3:15-16*). We do this by teaching and by example. However, parents cannot do this alone. Peers, fellow Christians, Bible class teachers, elders, and preachers must do their part in leading and molding the lives of our young people. Peers must be an example and strength to each other. Fellow Christians need to offer encouragement and sound advice. Elders need the foresight to direct the teaching. Bible class teachers and preachers must reinforce the teaching of the parents by laying down clear and firm Bible principles. Children must be taught the dangers that they will face and be given the tools to withstand the temptations and deliver their souls.

Sometimes we may have to say no to our children. This may make them unhappy, but it may deliver their soul from hell and save them a life of misery, heartache, and consequences for wrongful actions.

Our children have the responsibility to take what they have been taught and live it in their lives. If one possesses a love for God and a desire to do His will they will succeed. If one possesses a rebellious attitude, they will face the consequences. We cannot live our children's lives for them. They will give an answer to God for how they have lived before Him (*Rom.14:10*). Let us all do what we can to keep our hearts and the hearts and lives of our children pleasing to God by living a pure, moral and righteous life, looking toward the hope of eternal life in Heaven, where we will be with the LORD forever.

LDW