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TEACHING CHILDREN TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS!—By Maria 5/89

DO 2533 Maria #96

Do YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS
TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM?

1. In an illustration on childcare training in a book we just read, it cited the case of a mother who was encouraging her child to make a decision on his own with no help from her. In this specific instance, the mother evidently had no particular feelings one way or the other as to which choice was best. When this is the case, then of course you should let him make his own decision.

2. Most of the decisions that our children make, however, even seemingly minor ones, are important ones because they affect you, they affect the other children, they affect the Lord's Work. One choice is usually a much better choice than the others, & because of that, we usually have pretty good reasons for trying to encourage them to choose what we know is best.

3. Even in little decisions like, "What should

I wear today?", where we have been taught by the System that children should be free to make up their own minds, we often must look ahead to how it will affect our overall sample. Our lives are not our own, we're bought with a price, & we want them to learn as we are learning, that every decision is important & needs to be what the Lord wants.

4. In other words, almost everything our children do, they're doing it for the Lord.—Either as part of their growing up & learning to be mature, or for the Lord's Work & to be a good sample to others. Everything is geared towards that goal of helping them be good samples. So almost all of their decisions are important & have an effect on the Family as a whole.

5. Of course, we can & should encourage them to decide what clothing to wear—unless they're going out busking or participating in some public ministry, in which case we probably would need to guide them. But when we must add our voice, we can still be teaching them to make decisions, not just dictating to them our answers & choices. We can make them think things out by asking questions: "How would the people there prefer to see you? How would you be a better sample?" You can guide them by questions, & help them make the right decision.

6. Unlike the System, we're not only concerned with them feeling good about themselves: "You do what you would like to do. You do what you feel comfortable with," because we have goals in mind. We're training them to be able to choose what's best for the Lord & His Work.—Not just to make them feel comfortable with themselves & able to logically & rationally choose one thing over another. And furthermore, even above making decisions for themselves, we're trying to teach them the importance of yielding to having decisions made for them. In our Family, they have to get used to yielding, like we all do, to someone else's decisions, most of all the Lord's.

7. In our Family Homes, everyone can help in the decision-making, but usually the Lord's Work dictates the decision, so that everyone more or less just has to roll with it. Most decisions are more or less made for you. As a body,

you don't operate independently, & no one has the luxury of consistently making their own decisions—especially the children.

8. But at the same time we are also trying to equip our children to be able to make decisions when they have to. We certainly should let them make their own decisions where we can, & at the same time help them to arrive at the right ones.—Not just say, “OK, I'm not going to say anything to you. What do you feel? What do you think?”—Without giving them any help or spiritual guidance along the way.

9. However, when we do give guidance, often we are too heavy-handed in our dealing with our kids & we don't give them enough leeway. Instead of dictating & laying down the law to them, we should try to lead them by questioning.

10. They need our guidance because they're not yet old enough to have gained the experience that we have, nor do they have enough of the Lord's Word or His principles, nor do they always know how the Lord works in different situations. Most of the time there is a right & a wrong, a black & white, a yes & no or a better & best decision to make. However, we need to try to refrain from laying down the law, “Here it is & this is it!”, & try rather to guide them to come to that conclusion themselves. Then if they still make the wrong decision, if it's that important, you might have to lay down the law, but at least you've given them a chance to agree.

11. That's the way Dad does it. If he knows he's right & something is the Lord's Will, there just isn't any other option. There isn't any leeway. However, he starts from the very beginning, explaining to you why, helping you to arrive at the same conclusion with him. You see he's right & you want to agree. It's like you start saying “yes, yes” & you keep saying “yes” all the way, & you finally get to the same conclusion—the right conclusion that you should come to. He is helping you to make the right decision. But there is no other choice. He is not going to let you decide on your own to do something else or come to a different conclusion, since it would be displeasing to the Lord.

12. He knows what the correct answer is when he starts, & he's helping you to arrive at that same correct answer, & he won't countenance any other answer because he knows it would be the wrong answer. He stays with you until you understand & are convinced in your own mind.

13. The way Dad does it is exactly the way it

should be done. I think he has given good examples of that in many of the Letters—how he starts out asking questions & starts out leading you to say, “Well, yes, that's true.” And “Yes, if that is true then isn't this true?” “Yes.” “And if this is true, this must also be true!” “Yes.” And you agree.

14. So I think that's the way we as parents should do it. Dad's definitely controlling the whole situation & guiding you to think a certain way. But because he knows that's the right way, why should he not do it? The System's way is ridiculous!—They're so afraid of being accused of making their kids think a certain way, or they're so afraid the kids won't be able to think for themselves, that they let them think what they want to think, even if it's the wrong thing! But remember, you can't just dictate to them; you must lead them into it step-by-step and get them to decide on their own that what you're saying is right and that they want to believe it, too.

15. First of all, even before your guidance in the form of questions, you have to listen. You should listen & say nothing for awhile, but then when it comes to “active listening,” when it comes to participating yourself, you should try to guide at the same time. In the case in this book, the mother first listened to her child. She said, “I just decided not to tell him what to do.”

16. I think in our situation we would say to our children, “What do you think are the pros & what are the cons?” If he doesn't know, you would want to help him by saying, “Can you see that on this side are these different points? And on that side are those. What do you think the positives are? And what are the negatives? What reasons would there be for continuing your class? What reasons would there be against it?” I think you would ask them some questions to help them consider all that's involved in the decision they're about to make.

17. We have an even greater interest in helping our children make the right decisions than does the System. The System emphasises helping them make decisions; we emphasise helping them to make the right decisions. The System does it to help the child to become a well-adjusted citizen in today's society. Whereas we're doing it for a much more important reason than that.

18. We want him to be a well-adjusted citizen of our society, but we also want him to be a full-fledged 100% dedicated leader for the Lord!—And that has a much greater impor-

tance. We're playing for a lot higher stakes than the Systemites! So our guidance is much more important, because we know that we're giving the Lord's guidance. We have a Message from the Lord for our children & we know what the Word says & it is our duty to teach it to them.— And if we fail to do that, then we are failing them!

19. The System has some good things to say to their children from their wisdom & experience. But it's minuscule compared with what we have, because we're giving them the Lord's Words & the Lord's principles!—And we've got to do it, no matter what. That's our job! We're responsible to give it to them!

20. The problem usually comes in how we do it. Sometimes we push it down their throats, & of course with that method we'll see negative results. Or we can try to get them to see our viewpoint by getting them to agree with us from the beginning & leading them into it. The problem isn't that we give them lots of counsel & instruction & direction. We need to do that. But we need to learn to do it more acceptably, so they can agree more readily with it, without feeling that we're constantly nagging them or shoving it down their throats.

21. We're going to have to try to treat our kids like we're selling them a product, instead of assuming that they're going to accept it just because they're our kids. When we go DTD, we are on our best behaviour. We don't say, "Here, you take Jesus! You've got to have Jesus! Here, bow your head & pray!"

22. We now, thankfully, have learned a little more & we're a little more mature & responsible, & we try to relate to outsiders first & talk about our children, for example, & about the lessons we've gone through, & answers we've found. We talk about the problems with their children & try to relate to them without acting like we're pushing anything down their throats. We speak from our experience & give our testimonies.

23. That's the only way we're going to get anybody to agree with us. They refuse to have things pushed down their throats, & if they're going to accept it, it has to be their idea! You've got to try to help them agree with you, & think they're coming to the right conclusion on their own, because they're not going to do it just because you say they should.

24. So we should have almost that same attitude with our children, that we're really trying to win them. We should do everything we

possibly can to be on our best behaviour & use our best strategy, instead of just hitting them over the head & saying, "Here it is! You've got to take it!" Our kids are one of our most important ministries. We brought them up, we've spent years pouring into them, & we certainly don't want to mess things up & wind up losing them after all that!

25. Our older children have had so much good training that many times they will be able to come up with good decisions on their own, if we just give them a chance. If you wait a little bit, & if you don't jump in there too fast, the child is often going to come to the right conclusion on his own. But, if within a very short time he doesn't show any signs of making the right decision or knowing what to do, then you need to start guiding him.

26. So I think for us, the most important caution is: Don't jump into things too quickly! Wait, don't talk, listen! And then you can talk later. Then you can guide him by questioning. Then you can ask, "What do you think about it? How do you think you'd feel if such-&-such was the case?"

27. Even better, if possible, don't make it obvious that you're guiding them. Like I said to Techi as she went by with her snack on the way to her room: "Would you like me to come in & help you get the stool, Honey?" I'm sure it sounded much nicer to her than, "Don't sit in bed & drink your snack. Instead, sit on your stool." In other words, "You've got to sit on the stool instead of on the bed to drink your milk, otherwise you'll spill it all over the bed!" Well, I've told her that quite a few times, so she already knows it. So this time I asked: "Would you like me to come in & help get the stool for you? Your hands are full. I could help you get the stool so you don't have to get it yourself." So she was duly reminded, but without being nagged. That's just a tiny example, but it illustrates one of the best ways to guide children, not only into making the right decisions, but into getting them to do their chores or carry out household rules: To question instead of to state.

28. So in helping children to make decisions, first you listen & try to keep your mouth shut. They will often come to the right conclusion through talking to you about it, just as we often do when we talk to the Lord about something. But if they don't, then you can start trying to help them come to a right decision, by guiding them with specific questions. (AMEN!—D.)

INDEPENDENCE THROUGH

DEPENDENCY!—By Maria DO 2534 4/89
Maria #97



1. Many people, in & out of the Family, have said that we baby our young people too much. They say that we require them to be too dependent on us, & that we're so afraid that they'll get out & do something wrong that we've got them tied so securely to our apron strings that they'll never be able to get free. At first glance, it does seem like we don't really give them enough freedom or independence.

2. On the other hand, the System gives their kids way too much. They can't help it because of the structure of the System; once they start sending them to school, they're gone. They walk to school on their own, they walk home on their own & what they do during that time only they know. Even 5 & 6-year-olds ride their bikes to school & back, & if that isn't enough, when they do get home, more often than not, their parents are still at work. At night they're often left at home alone again while parents pursue extra-curricular activities. They're out of touch with their parents from the time they're real little.

3. I see a lot of cause for alarm in that, but I don't see any harmful results in closely supervising your children so you know what they are doing at all times, in giving them the constant training that they need, even up through their teen years.—Not keeping them babies all their lives—just giving them independence gradually & much more slowly than the System does.

4. I think that's really the way the Lord wants

it. If we're going to go to one extreme or the other, it's much better that we go to the overly protective, overly instructive extreme. Don't be afraid to keep reminding your children of things in whatever ways you find most effective. Repetition is the law of memory, & only by repetition will appropriate actions & attitudes become habitual.

5. Our David is now at the age (14) where he's really wanting to assert his independence & do things on his own. For example, he's quite a competent handyman now. However, when he's doing handyman work with Grandpa, Grandpa supervises him at every step, what hammer to use & what nail to use & how to hammer the nail in. For David, who wants to prove he can do it on his own, it must sometimes be a bit frustrating, but he takes it well & yields to it.—And every time he works with Grandpa he learns something new, & Dad is drilling him to see how well he knows what he's already been taught. Think of the wonderful training he's getting in doing things the right way!

6. You have to make sacrifices, & responsible independence has a price. You teens have to choose what you want: Do you want to be independent now & do things your own way & end up not doing them well or not doing them right?—Or do you want to remain dependent for awhile & really learn your lessons the right way, so when you finally do become independent you're going to know what you're doing & be independent in the right way? Don't worry!—Even though the process seems slow, your independence will come eventually, & you will have families of your own & will have to make important decisions where you will be the one ultimately responsible.

7. On the other hand, we have all made the choice to be dependent on the Lord & Dad & leadership & the Family & usually be told in detail what to do & how to do it. So we certainly aren't independent in that respect.

8. For us in the Family, independence is a far less valuable commodity than it is in the System. It ranks way down the line in importance, compared with how the System ranks it. Our whole life is based on being dependent on each other & dependent on Dad & most of all, dependent on the Lord. The Devil's System is almost the exact opposite from the Lord's!

9. So even though we understand that you kids do need some independence from us as your parents, we still put the emphasis, just as with all of us, on dependence on leadership, &

many times your parents are your leaders. So independence isn't that important or even desirable for you, & if you're dependent on your parents a bit longer it really isn't going to hurt you. In fact, it will be well worth it & pay off in the long run.

10. What is independence for teens in the System, anyway? (Fam.: To make their own choices?) (Fam.: To be individuals & to be somebody & to get free from their parents & to have the power to choose to do whatever they wish, & think whatever they want.) Yes. But all of these things don't mean as much in the Family, because we want you to grow up like us, hopefully. We want you to be the same as much as possible. We don't want you to have freedom in the System way, because that sort of freedom means separation from the Family.

11. Consider freedom of thought: Because we have the standard of the Word that the Lord has given us to live by, we want you to think what the Lord thinks, what we know He wants you to think in regard to your attitudes & philosophy of life. We don't want you to think anything different. Sometimes you're free to do whatever you want in developing your personal talents & in pursuing favoured ministries.—Although even in these, you counsel with the Lord about it, & seek His Will. But what other freedom do we really promote?

12. (Fam.: One big step of independence comes when a teen makes the decision that he is in the Family not just because he was born into the Family but because he wants to be in the Family. It's that freedom of choice to decide, "Yes, I'm going to serve the Lord." That's the ultimate in the freedom we want to give them, the freedom to choose to go on with the Lord & make their own commitment & dedication to serving Him.)

13. Another freedom we give you is: After you've finally learned to do something, & we can trust you to do it well, you've earned the freedom to do it without having an adult right over you all the time. For instance, many of you care for small children, which is a very adult responsibility which many of you, even you young teens, do very very well—better than System adults!—Also handyman work & cooking as well as many other very important jobs that you young people do, that System kids haven't even thought of beginning to do.

14. We give you independence & freedom after you've earned it. But that's the difference.—We wait till we know you've earned it.

You have very close supervision for a long time until we know you've earned it, contrary to kids in the System who want & get their independence before they've earned it! They get it actually when they start off to school. They haven't earned anything at 5-years-old, but they get their independence & their freedom at that early age! Of course during school hours they are more or less supervised, but their other waking hours are pretty much their own. So many parents are so busy with both of them working at jobs, they often have no idea what's going on with their kids! So their children have a lot of freedom & independence which they haven't earned, they don't deserve, & they actually shouldn't have because they don't know how to handle it!

15. In some ways we do have a lot more freedom & independence, but on the whole we believe in restriction of freedom. We want to keep you kids where we know you should be, until you've learned for yourselves that this is what you want. The System would say that we keep you until we've really brainwashed you, which in a way is true...but we do it with the Word!

16. The Word is the absolute & it is the standard! That's why the System is so far off: They're utterly opposed to any control or any submission at all, or any dependence on anybody.—Even on God & His Word! But when it comes right down to it, they're actually in total bondage.—To the Devil & the System, but they don't understand or even realise that. Most of them think they're free, but if they seriously stopped to think about it, they must certainly realise that they're not free. But still, it's a concept they like to promote. This claim that they're free & their System's free sounds good & it helps them to feel better, but it's just ridiculous!

17. They're bound to the Devil, just as we are bound to the Lord & are love slaves of His; we never want to become independent from Him. So your goal of independence should be to grow responsible & mature enough to be able to eventually carry out your duties & jobs & attend to personal habits diligently & accurately without having to be supervised or nagged. But you must be willing to be bound while you are learning to be free.

18. The only way you can learn all these skills, jobs & faithfulness in duties, is to be "slaves" to your parents or supervisors for a sufficient amount of time, actually quite a long time, until you can finally do it well on your own out of habit. So it takes "slavery" for a long time

until you finally have learned it, & can be trusted to be independent.

19. The kind of independence I'm talking about is so you can be mature adults with a family or flock of your own. That's a good goal, a good reason to become independent. But independence like that involves a lot of responsibility. You're not really going to be maturely independent until you've been dependent for the time that it takes to learn all these responsibilities.

20. If there is a right reason in the System at all, a good reason to become independent, it's to be able to stand on your own, get married & have children. That's one of our motivations for making our teens independent, but we prepare our teens a lot better than the System does theirs.

21. If our teens wanted to, they could have families at a much younger age & make their marriages work a lot better than System kids can. We have prepared & trained our children much better for independence. We have given them a much greater degree of independence along that line than the System kids. In spite of this, we always get those accusations from outsiders: "You're sheltering your kids too much & you're tying them to your apron strings!—They can't do anything on their own & they can't have their own friends. They've got to be with you all the time. They can't grow up!" But they are wrong & we are right. This is the way our children should grow up. We want them to be dependent in those respects.

22. (Fam.: We saw a documentary on Queen Elizabeth, & I think the kids really related to it because it was so much like their own lives. Because she was royalty, she was always seen with her sister, Margaret, or on occasion with a very few selected friends. They had her completely dependent on that constant training, so that when the time came for her ministry of being queen, she was ready. But that's what it took, that sacrifice. I remember Techí said, "Hey, that sounds familiar!") That's a parallel to our own royal training. The Lord calls us a royal priesthood, a chosen generation (1Pet. 2:9), & we have a ministry to fulfill & a goal to aim for & we've got the motivation for it.

23. We've got to stick together! We're all members of one body, including our kids. Everybody's a member of the same body, & the individual members can't get too independent, otherwise you're not going to be able to work in harmony, in a coordinated fashion. (See 1Cor. 12:12-27.)

24. I'm happy with the way our kids are

turning out. We've kept them very dependent & have been very protective of them, but on the other hand, we can see that they can accomplish a lot of things on their own. They're capable of it now—they've learned it.—They're now practicing what they've learned over & over & forming very good habits.

25. But we're still going to keep being as protective as possible of them until we can't be any more, & then we can be sure that their training has become such a part of them, such a habit, that we know they can be on their own. We've been going over & over & over it so long, we know they know it & would not have serious problems if they would have to be on their own. We would know that they could do it because we've been together so long that we know they've learned it.

26. We can tell that they're becoming responsible & independent. They've formulated good habits & are learning to work on their own, they're learning to see projects through to completion & they're becoming mature & responsible citizens of our New Nation, as well as beautiful ones!

27. So we can see that in almost all ways, they could be independent. I'm sure they're much more capable of independence & better equipped for it than System kids their own age. It's just that we haven't yet given them independence, but they've learned how to be independent even while being dependent & learning to be submissive. If we would let them loose now, they would be much more prepared than System kids their own age, who supposedly already have lots of independence, but are obviously very irresponsible & selfish.—They don't know how to handle the independence they've been given.

28. You can see that ours are already independent in various ways. You give them a job to do & they can carry it through even on their own. If you give them instructions they can carry out those instructions accurately & consistently. They can already make responsible decisions based on the Word & what they've learned & the counsel they've received.

29. So they can do almost everything that an adult can, at least on a mini-scale. So even our young teens like David, & pre-teens like Techí, are probably as capable of independence as most System kids who are getting out of high school, & maybe even college. It's just that we haven't given them their full independence & said, "Okay, you can go on your own now." I think they're doing much better now tied to our

apron strings learning independence, than the other kids out there completely severed from the apron strings but not capable of handling the independence that they have!

30. So I vote for dependence as long as possible while they're learning independence, & learning to go it on their own under supervision in small steps & in small doses, little by little, slowly, without just saying, "Okay, do whatever you want to do & learn it on your own!" That's obviously not a good system!—Look at the wreck that the World's poor young people are in!

31. So in summary, although it seems like we don't give our kids any independence, we are constantly teaching them independence within our dependent atmosphere. In other words, we let them "drive on their own property." Then, when they do have to do things on their own, they'll know what to do & they'll be miles ahead of their System counterparts! They won't have been flung out to the System to be independent on their own without being prepared for it. They are being prepared in our dependent atmosphere. Of course, to the System, it looks like they have a complete lack of independence.

32. It's supervised, controlled independence, in a very dependent atmosphere, which is what they need. Actually, we start giving them responsibility & teaching maturity earlier than the System ever thinks about it! Even though the System supposedly has independence at a much earlier age, their teens simply don't have the maturity or the capability or the training to handle it.

33. So even though we supposedly pamper ours & supposedly "overprotect" them & keep them dependent on us, we are at the same time training them better for maturity & responsibility & independence.—And that's how it should be. David's learning to handle so many things on his own. We want them to have independence, but we want to supervise it as long as possible to make sure they know how to handle it correctly, that they learn to do things the right way, & to do what they're supposed to do.

34. Training children & teens requires constant supervision, continual supervision over a long period of time, to make sure they're living according to the Word, until making prayerful decisions becomes a habit for them. You simply cannot achieve that by doing it the way the System does & throwing the kids out on their own & saying, "Okay, here's your car & here's your college & here's your job! Go to it, now

you have your independence!"

35. They have to have been learning this independence for a long time in a dependent supportive atmosphere before they can actually have their full independence, their complete separation from you & transferal out into another Home or ministry or to a different location. But they can't do it capably & responsibly unless you train them in it for a long time before you actually cut them loose.—Amen?

36. GBAKY & give you lots of wisdom, love & patience in giving your children good preparation for their future ministries!

"BE NOT UNEQUALLY YOKED WITH UNBELIEVERS"—By Maria DO 2535 4/89
—Lessons from David & Techi's Experience with Neighborhood Kids. Maria #98



EXPLAINING TO TECHI ABOUT CHRISTIANS IN THE SYSTEM

1. I was explaining to Techi about our neighbour's children & I said, "Honey, you know the Bible says 'Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers.'—2Cor.6:14. It's a sacrifice that we have to make, as Christians, to keep pure for the Lord & not get corrupted & contaminated by the World. And because of our selah situation, we can't exactly openly witness about Salvation to our neighbours so there's really no good reason for fellowshiping with them." I explained, "I know that those children are supposed to be Christians. You mentioned that the girl had a cross around her neck & that they go

to church. But that's all we know about them, they didn't say they'd even received Jesus or anything like that.

2. "But let's assume they're Christians. Let's assume they have received Jesus." I asked her, "How much are they really believers? It doesn't take very much belief to just accept Jesus' free gift of Salvation." It takes a momentary, instantaneous reaching out & accepting, & enough faith to believe that Jesus loved you enough to die for you. For children, that doesn't take much, & they often receive Jesus immediately.

3. So in that sense of Salvation, they are "believers" in Salvation. But as far as being true believers in the way we mean, & in the way the Bible talks about it, it's a whole different thing. The Bible is talking about both, of course. But the true sense of the Word, & the application for us is, that "believers" means believers & receivers of everything the Bible has to say, & practicers of it as well.—Believers in the Bible who then act on it & do it!

4. Believing it is doing it!—That's the kind of real believers who believe in the whole way of life for Jesus, & all aspects of doing what the Lord wants us to do.—Not just believing that you have Salvation, that's not going to go very far. It'll get you to Heaven, but that's about it.

5. So I said, "I'm afraid we can't really class them as 100% believers." (Fam.: So many of our backsliders have received Jesus & are going to go to Heaven, but look at the way they live—some of them worse than total heathen, some of them even sold-out to fighting those who are serving Jesus fulltime!) Yes, that's a good illustration.

6. But Techy wasn't convinced yet, as she brought it up again. She wanted so badly to make friends with these children, that we had to come up with some very good reasons why not in order to satisfy her. Sometimes it takes awhile for children to understand. You have to keep asking questions & explaining the subject from different angles until you've answered to their satisfaction.

7. It's not always because they don't really believe it. They often just want to hear it said over & over & from different angles until they really are convinced & able to accept it for themselves. (Fam.: In a couple of days she'll say, "Well, you really were right," after she's convinced in her mind & has thought out the details. She wants to make her own decision, her own choice, then she admits, "You were right all along.")

IF ANY MAN BE "IN" CHRIST HE IS A NEW CREATURE

8. "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature, old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new."—2Cor.5:17. Now there are quite a few Christians that I know of, in fact, the majority of the Christians, for whom old things have not passed away & all things are not become new! So is the Bible wrong, or what is the problem? Well, we know the Lord's Word isn't wrong, so it must be our interpretation of this verse. When we're trying to lead people to the Lord, or after they have prayed with us, we use this verse & tell them, "Look what it says here, that if you receive Jesus your life will be completely changed." But how many of them do completely change?

9. It says, "If any man be in Christ." Now we usually say about Salvation that Christ is in you, that when we pray, "Jesus come into my heart," Jesus comes into us. But I think it takes considerably longer for us to get into Jesus, "in Christ!" It's like we talk about getting in the Word, not just getting the Word in us.—In other words, not just having Jesus come into our hearts, but us getting into Him, getting immersed in Him, rooted & grounded in Him & into His Word & becoming completely enveloped in it. Then the more we do that, the more it's true that old things pass away, & behold, all things become new!

10. But that's a big change & a big process, & it takes time. So I don't think that that verse was necessarily written about Salvation. We often use it for that, but we all know that that's not the case, that when you get saved everything old does not immediately pass away & all things suddenly become new! Now some people, granted, have a very spectacular change, & in many respects their life shows a very dramatic, instantaneous change.

11. But for many many others, it doesn't happen that way, although they've probably received just as good a dose of Salvation. When you pray & ask Him to, Jesus comes into your heart, & if in one case there's a dramatic change & experience, & in another case there's not, the one is not just half a Salvation & the other a whole Salvation! It's all genuine bona fide Salvation.

12. A lot of people don't have such an instantaneous, dramatic change. Some people have been instantly miraculously delivered from drugs, alcoholism or cigarettes. A lot of people

in our Family have been delivered from these things probably because we all had the faith for it & they were going partially by our faith.

13. But for a lot of us, & perhaps for most new Christians, they have to battle certain things they carry over with them from their past lives, & it takes awhile. It takes quite a long while for some people to get cleansed enough by the Word that they show enough change that they can say, "All things have changed."

14. I mean look at all of us, we're all still working on it! So all things definitely didn't immediately become new, but thank the Lord, they're a lot newer now than they were before!

15. So I'm pretty much convinced that that verse really wasn't meant to be applied to Salvation. I think using it for Salvation is in some ways a little misleading, because when you talk to somebody you've just led to the Lord and show them 2Corinthians 5:17, they'll expect to have this dramatic immediate change in every area. If it doesn't happen, they may doubt the Word.

16. It's true that Salvation is the most important decision you make in your life, the most important step. It is passing from the old life into a new life, & everything will be, or should be different.

17. But it takes time. You don't just automatically say "presto" & you're completely different from that time on. So I don't think that should be one of our major Salvation verses that we harp on, because I can certainly see where it could be a little misleading or confusing to people.

18. Many people when they first get saved, don't even feel differently at all! Others, like "the Jews (who) require a sign" (1Cor.1:22), have some kind of dramatic revelation to show them that Salvation in Jesus is the way. But some people just have to accept it by faith without feeling anything at first. In fact, many don't even feel different for a long long time until their spiritual processes are activated, until they start actually getting in the Word & start praying & obeying.

19. People can go to something like a Billy Graham crusade & get saved & go home & maybe for years not know what it all really meant. If they don't have spiritual guidance & don't even realise they're supposed to read the Word, or even if they try, but don't really understand it, & they don't have any fellowship with believers, then their lives go on pretty much the same as ever, until at some point the Lord inter-

venes & does something. He has kept on their case & He knows that they belong to Him, so He finally makes some of them particularly desperate at a certain point, where they really do then search for a closer walk with Him. Then things start to change in their lives.

20. A lot of spiritually retarded Christians have been almost like they're on ice for years & aren't even particularly hungry—they just got saved & they thought, "How nice!—Now I'm going to go to Heaven!", but that was about the end of it. So they just continued to live the way they always lived.

21. In some cases, if they were pretty good people already & there wasn't necessarily anything that they were doing that was so bad that their conscience hurt them, they just go on, business as usual. In some ways they really don't have any ripples until the Lord intervenes & something major happens in their life & they're sort of spiritually activated & brought to life & things do start changing in their lives.

22. Others even live & die without anyone even knowing they ever accepted Jesus! Perhaps when they were young they got saved, but their spiritual training won't start in earnest until they die & go to be with the Lord.

23. (DAD'S CONFIRMATION!:) Amen!—I've often said most churchy Christians are like retarded children!—They're still on the floor playing with toys, & haven't learned much & are even undernourished because they haven't been fed much!—They don't even know they're supposed to grow up & have a job to do!

24. It's much like the way modern parents raise their spoiled & rotten brats of today! The preachers have spoiled them by telling'm all they have to do is "Go to church—& bring money, & I'll do all the rest—I'll preach the Gospel & win the souls.—It's just your job to support me!"—Sad!

25. So the churches have raised a pitiful houseful of weak, undernourished, retarded, spoiled brats who aren't even sure they're saved!—No wonder they have so much trouble with'm!—They don't spank'm or tell'm the Truth, & they let'm get away with everything except not coming to church!—I guess they'll have to learn all the rest in the Millennium!!

26. —That's why I had to go out & get you & teach you from scratch!—These over-church'd babies were already too handicapped! God bless you & keep you working for Jesus!

CHILD ABUSE: A FINAL WARNING:

—By Maria

DFO 2536 6/89

Maria #99

1. To refute the terrible lies & charges of "child abuse" that our enemies have whipped up against us we have released an official statement denying any such wrong-doing. (See the "Child Abuse?!" tract.) We know that the media attacks which harp on those accusations are just the Devil & our enemies' attempt to try to devour us & our little ones by stirring up public sentiment against us!

SHOWING NATURAL AFFECTION TO CHILDREN

2. Even though we certainly do not believe in or practice any kind of sexual abuse of our children, we do believe in showing our children normal legitimate affection, care & love. Virtually all of the recognised child psychologists & experts agree that children need such visibly-manifested & demonstrated affection in order to properly develop psychologically.

3. However, our Family needs to realise that we have now got to be extremely careful how we show affection to our children. But just because the Devil has propagandised the World to look suspiciously on any sign of physically-manifested affection, love or warmth as a possible sign of evil-doing, we can't stop doing what we know we're supposed to do! We can't stop showing our children the love & affection they need, demonstrating our love for them through normal affection, which is actually one of the only ways that small children can even comprehend or understand love!

4. Dad has repeatedly said that the only way others are going to know we love them is if we show it physically, & this is certainly true of children. They definitely need to have love demonstrated & shown to them. They constantly need affection—hugs, kisses, a pat on the back, an arm around the shoulders—& we can't suddenly stop all such absolutely normal & natural displays of love just because the Devil threatens, "Oh no no, don't do that! You must never touch your children—you'll be accused of child abuse!"

5. We have to do what we know is right & natural & what we are supposed to do, regardless of the Devil's lies, fears & false accusations!—Just be careful not to overdo it, especially in public where a skeptical or critical onlooker could completely misinterpret your actions!

6. And for God's sake & your children's sake

& our Family's sake, only manifest your love for your children in a way that is necessary & legitimate, natural affection for which they can't criticise or condemn you or even pick you up & throw you in jail & charge you with child abuse! For example, even sitting your teen daughter on your lap, putting your arm around her & giving her a peck on the cheek could be interpreted by some as "child abuse"! So if you ever do anything like that, you'd better do it in private where the System's not apt to be looking!—"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without!"—Col.4:5.

WARNING TO THE WAYWARD!

7. And you'd better not do anything more than that, either in public or private, because any kind of activity with a minor that could be construed as the least bit sexual is definitely against the law!—And could get you & your whole Home & the entire Work in your country & the whole Family worldwide in big trouble! You simply cannot afford to exceed the boundaries that the System considers legitimate!

8. Besides, there's absolutely no reason why anyone in the Family would have to go any further than normal, legal affection with a minor! You can show your children that you love them by doing what parents have legitimately done for hundreds & thousands of years; hugging them & kissing them & putting your arm around them.—You certainly don't have to have any kind of sex with them!

9. Parents—or any other adults for that matter—certainly do not have to have sex with children!—Or with underage teens! For example, no matter how much a man may feel drawn to some sexy teen girl, & love her & want to get intimately involved with her, it's simply not wise. They don't have to, & they had better refrain from it! There are quite a few good verses in the Bible about constraining yourselves. You don't have to do everything you may feel like doing, & you can certainly control yourself for the sake of God's Work! (See 1Cor.9:27; Pro.16:32; 25:28; Lk.21:34; Rom.6:12,13; 13:14; Col.3:5.)

10. To have any kind of affair or sexual relationship with a minor is just about the most dangerous thing any of our adults could do!—And it's not even necessary! There's no need or legitimate reason for it! In fact, nothing is necessary if it's going to hurt the Lord's Work! We've already put out an urgent notice to the Family & to the whole World that we don't do such things, & we mean it, we don't do it!—And

anybody who does is in serious trouble, not only with the World but with us!

11. We're going to get rid of any such problem if it does exist anywhere, because that's one problem we certainly don't need right now! The legitimate persecution we receive from the Devil & his crowd just because we're living for the Lord is enough. But to make ourselves problems because of our own immaturity & lack of wisdom & outright disobedience, that's our fault & is ridiculous! We just don't need problems like that. We have enough legitimate unavoidable problems & "persecution for righteousness' sake" to have to battle against!—Mat.5:10.

12. So if we hear of anybody who violates these rules, we're going to immediately excommunicate them! Any such involvement with minors is definitely against our rules! Yes, we have liberty, & "unto the pure all things are pure" (Tit.1:15), but we can't let our liberty become a stumblingblock!—1Cor.8:9. And it's definitely a stumblingblock for us when the World gets on our case & cracks down on us because of it! Such activity can also cause our own brethren to stumble as well.—And sisters!

13. Furthermore, it's been researched & proven by the experts that in almost every case where an adult got involved with a teen, the relationship failed simply because there are too many differences of interests. Young people have better experiences with other young people. Of course, a lot of young people don't have very good experiences with other young people, but it's been proven that the vast majority of those who tried it definitely didn't have very good experiences with adults! Teens who have had such involvement with adults have almost un-animously manifested a very negative, regretful or remorseful reaction to such experiences.

14. So I definitely think it's far better that our adults completely avoid any such involvement with minors! No matter how much some cute little teen girl may appear to throw herself at them, our teen shepherds & adults with teens in their Homes had better make it clear from the beginning that, "We love you & we'll do whatever we can to help you grow in the Lord, but we're not going to even think about having any flaming romantic relationship!" It's just better that they pray & try to guard their heart with all diligence. (Pro.4:23)

15. So let me warn you again, if we or our leadership hear of any cases of this, & the cases are authenticated, it's going to result in automatic immediate excommunication of any such

offenders! Of course, we'll first of all have to verify it & make sure that it really happened, & that it's not merely some jealous wife's accusation. In other words, when an accusation is serious enough to warrant excommunicating somebody, we have to make sure it's legitimate. But as soon as we're sure that the accusation is valid, we will not hesitate to excommunicate any such offenders right away!—Amen?

16. Let's all continue to love & nurture & train up our precious teens & young people in the Lord, & not have any such distracting, dangerous, damaging deviations within our ranks! For God's sake & our Family's sake & our witness to lost souls' sake, stick to the straight & narrow path of obedience to His commands & keep busy winning the World to Jesus! Amen? GBY! WLY! (Amen)—D.)

CANCER KILLS KHOMEINI!

—From Stephen Newheart, Asia

Dear Dad,

GBY! IRLY! After Khomeini's death, I looked up your prayer against Khomeini in GN 324 (No.2407), & we found the following confirmation: In par.34, you prayed, "Show them this futile, frail, mortal weakness of death!"—And in par.44, "Make him die ignominiously, Lord!"

During the procession at his funeral, the crowd pushed his coffin & it fell down wide open & his body rolled down on the street, they stripped his robe & he was half naked. We looked up the word "ignominiously" in the dictionary & it said: "Dishonour, disgrace, shame," which was a very shameful thing to happen!

Also, it was said that he had advanced cancer, which normally spreads slowly in old people, but this was a kind which spread quickly & took over everywhere. Wow!

Thank you so much for your prayers which give us faith that God answers when we cry with a whole heart.

ILY! I pray for you daily.

Stephen Newheart (PTL) He never fails!—Tx! GBY!—Love,—D.)

GORBY THE AC?—NO!

—A Question from Mike, Pacific

Dear Dad,

GBY! ILY & am so thankful for your guidance, all the more so as the End draws near &

we witness fulfilments of Endtime prophecies all around us. I've been especially interested in following the so-called "Gorbymania" sweeping Europe, & can't help but wonder just how this amazing man fits into the Endtime scenario.

Back in '87, you published the "surprising, shocking," as you noted, "Prayer for Gorbachev" in which you called him God's instrument.

In a recent IHT article regarding Gorbachev's visit to France, there were some rather amazing statements concerning him & his much-publicised campaign to woo the West:

1) "Gorbachev spent 3 days in France...to sketch his seductive...concept of a common European home."

2) "His insistence that an era of peace & cooperation was at hand was counter-balanced by...apocalyptic accents that hinted at the pressures & strains playing on the Soviet leader." (Could this perhaps be referring to the relatively peaceful first half of the AC's reign followed, in the next statement, by a veiled reference to the troubles to follow?)

3) "He observed that Communist Europe confronted a danger of destabilisation, of a rupture that could be enormously harmful to...developments in the World." Upon leaving France, he went to a meeting with the leaders of the Warsaw Pact where he "briefed (them) on changes going on in Europe & the rest of the World...& talked about measures that must be taken to adapt."

I don't want to read into this more than is actually happening, but the terminology used in these statements sounds strikingly similar to terms used in Daniel, such as "he shall come in peaceably (era of peace) & obtain the kingdom by flatteries (seductively)." The Lord showed you the AC would come in quietly & Gorbachev seems to be anything but a quiet fellow, but do you think he might perhaps be the False Prophet preparing the way?

Much love, Your son, Mike

(PTL! GBY! "He is My son," said the Lord in "Prayer for Gorbachev," which revealed to us for the first time that he is a Christian!—Which other news items have confirmed! (See the WND.) Therefore he cannot be the False Prophet but a true Prophet of God, preparing the World with pleas for peace against the U.S. warmongers—like its last chance before the AC!—And Gorby certainly can't be the AC, for the AC is a man "of fierce countenance!"—And that in no way could be said of Gorby!—But it's all

prep for the AC & Rev.17:12! According to a Russian prophetic proverb, "King Michael of the Mark" (birthmark) will be assassinated, sad to say—a martyr!—By the AC forces?—Very likely.—Tx!—Love, D.)

THE TEN HORNS!

—From Dutch John, SEA

Dear Dad & Mama,

GBY! ILY! I'd thought I'd write you a note as I found out something interesting about the EEC or 10 horns of Revelation 17.

The EEC now officially has 12 nations as participants: France, Germany, Denmark, England, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Belgium, Netherlands & Luxembourg. The last three countries are also called the Be-ne-lux, made up out of the first letters of each of the three countries' names.

I remembered from history that Luxembourg & Belgium used to be part of the Netherlands so I looked it up in the encyclopedia & found that Luxembourg got its independence from the Netherlands in 1815, while Belgium got its independence between 1830 & 39. A big part of the population of Belgium speaks "Flemish" which is Dutch, & in Luxembourg the people speak "Letzeburgesch" which is similar to Dutch or a Dutch dialect, & parts of both of the Netherlands & Belgium are called Luxembourg. (—Very interesting!)

So in history, it could have been easily seen as one Kingdom. The Benelux agreement was signed in 1944 & went into effect in 1948. The agreement was that trade within the Benelux is free of tariff duties & other restrictions, & the three countries have uniform duties on imports from the outside, so this agreement made it virtually one country or kingdom again 14 years before the first EEC agreement was signed in 1958. If we count the Benelux as one then that brings the EEC nations again to ten as was predicted.

It's almost like the Devil tried to pull a fast one to separate the three countries to try to disprove Bible prophecy, because he knew that his time was short. (—Amen.)

ILY!—And thank you so much for everything! (GBY! TTL!)

Love & thanks always, Dutch John
(Zach of Lamb)

(—Tx!—WLY!—D&M)