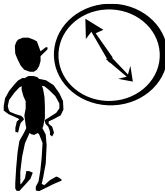


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### Time of Assembly



#### Sunday:

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:00 a.m.

#### Every other Sunday night:

Worship 5:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 p. m.

## They're Coming After Your Children

By Jefferson David Tant

After much criticism, the San Francisco Gay Men's Choir has removed an offensive video in which they sing about their plans to convert your children to homosexuality. "The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus set a music video to private after the group said it received 'threats of harm' over the song that repeats the lines 'we'll convert your children' and 'we're coming for your children' numerous times," reported The Blaze.

The song was on YouTube July 1, 2021 and clearly boasted of their plan targeting the children of Bible-believing, Christian parents with the following words:

You think we're sinful. You fight against our rights.  
You say we all lead lives you can't respect, But you're just frightened. You think that we'll corrupt your kids If our agenda goes unchecked. Funny, just this once, you're correct.

We'll convert your children. Happens bit by bit,  
Quietly and subtly, And you will barely notice it. You can keep them from disco, Warn about San Francisco, Make 'em wear pleated pants. We don't care. We'll convert your children. We'll make them tolerant and fair.

We're coming for them -- We're coming for your children -- We're coming for them -- We're coming for them -- We're coming for your children -- For your children

It should be obvious to all who are aware of what's going on in the world, that the homosexual influence has increased tremendously in the last few decades. The acceptance of homosexuality is being promoted in our public schools' sex-ed classes. Laws are being passed that forbid any discrimination against homosexual behavior. Businesses such as bakeries are being sued if they refuse to make a wedding cake for a homosexual wedding. President Biden has appointed homosexual Pete Buttigieg as Secretary of Transportation. Buttigieg is "married" to his

“husband” Chasten Buttigieg.

With respect to the sin of homosexuality or sodomy, it has been around for a long, long time. We find it recorded in the time of Abraham when Lot and his family settled in the city of Sodom, which was eventually destroyed for various evils, including homosexuality in [Genesis 13](#), around 1900 B.C. Then in the giving of the Law, God said, *“If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their blood guiltiness is upon them”* ([Leviticus 20:13](#)).

Then coming to the first century, Paul commented on the same sins of his day. *“For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error”* ([Romans 1:26-27](#)).

So, while the sin of homosexuality is not new, what is new in the present time in our nation is that it is not only being accepted, it is being promoted, and laws are being passed stating that if you do not accept and accommodate the sin, you can be punished.

Many public school systems are all aboard the homosexual agenda train. “The new standards for sex education in public schools of New Jersey push homosexuality and gender ideology, as well as abortion and contraception,” reports LifeSiteNews.

Abortion giant Planned Parenthood was one of the organizations that had worked with the state’s Department of Education to prepare the new standards.

“Modeled on the National Sexuality Education Standards,” the gold standard for sex education, the new guidelines, and educational requirements feature an updated, more comprehensive curriculum that includes expanded content topics, including LGBTQ identities and consent,” wrote Planned Parenthood. (In case you are not aware, the logo LGBTQ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, and Queer.)

Some schools are allowing boys who claim they are girls to participate in girls’ sports and can be in the girls’ dressing rooms and restrooms and vice versa.

In view of all this, what should parents do? Obviously, it is important for parents to be informed as to what their children are being taught in the “sex ed” classes, as well as to be involved in Parent-Teacher Associations. The voice of parents can sometimes change the policy of a school. And then there are the options of private schools as well as home-schooling. These options are growing across the nation as liberal tendencies are becoming more prevalent in many public school systems.

We are prone to safeguard our precious possessions. We lock our houses when we go away. We lock our cars when we are out and leave valuable things in them. And there is that which is far more precious than any earthly possession. God has instructed us about how to protect and safeguard our precious possessions — our children.

*“Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward”* ([Psalm](#)

12:3).

*“And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).*

*“For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well” (II Timothy 1:5).*

*“You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them; and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (II Timothy 3:14-15).*

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## The Problem of Other People’s Suffering

By Matthew W. Bassford

I first encountered the classical statement of the problem of human suffering in a religious studies class in college. The professor wrote on the board, “If God could stop suffering and chooses not to, He is not perfectly good. If God wants to stop suffering and can’t, He is not perfectly powerful. If God is both perfectly good and perfectly powerful, why does suffering exist?”

Though skeptics are fond of the problem of suffering, there are several problems with it. To me, one of the most significant is its assumption that our understanding of the good is the same as God’s understanding. A toddler cannot comprehend why their mother does not feed them candy for every meal and let them stick their fingers into electrical sockets. Is it the mother’s conception of the good that is flawed, or the toddler’s?

God knows more than we do, has a far better grasp of the consequences of suffering, is far more concerned with the eternal than the earthly, and doesn’t think like us, to begin with. The Bible presents Him as a God who is perfectly good, yet whose actions are not subject to human reason. It calls us to trust even when, and especially when, we don’t understand.

All of this, though, is the sort of thing that is discussed in collegiate lecture halls and Wednesday-night Bible classes. It doesn’t have much to do with the actual lived experience of suffering. When you are the one who has lost a child, when you are the one who is grappling with a terminal diagnosis, you are much more concerned with the consequences of God’s existence/nonexistence than you are with proofs to establish either.

If God is and is a rewarder of those who seek Him, suffering and indeed life itself are meaningful. I suffer, yes, but I suffer with hope. My efforts to glorify God are significant and give others the opportunity to make consequential changes in their own life. In the end, I will be blessed with such joy that all my suffering will seem to me as nothing more than momentary, light affliction.

If there is no God, then none of the above applies. Neither my suffering nor my life

has meaning. It is impossible for them to be meaningful. I am nothing more than the victim of malignant chance, as everyone will be sooner or later. My efforts to lift others up are pointless. In the end, I will die and be forgotten, with no more significance than the pattern left on the sand by the last wave to wash up on the beach.

If that's all there is to life, why live? Why go on? Why bother wrestling with the monstrous? The counsel of atheism to the sufferer is the counsel of despair, and it never can be anything else.

Yes, this is an emotional argument, but our reactions to the "rational" arguments about the existence of God are emotionally driven too. Anybody who thinks they can dispassionately reason to fundamental truths about the nature of existence without being powerfully influenced by their desires and fears is a fool. We make such decisions with the Biblical heart, the Eastern mind-and-heart, not the Western mind.

Indeed, the belief that we can rely on the latter is one of the great illusions of Western civilization. The product of such self-deceptive "reasoning" might stand up in the classroom, but suffering forces us to confront the truth. Either we choose to trust in the God whose ways are not our ways, or we reject Him. The former choice is not pleasant, but the latter is unbearable.

**Note:** Brother Bassford was recently diagnosed with ALS, a terminal disease with no known treatment or cure.

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## Not Too Young

Author Unknown

Recent research has revealed what teenagers truly desire from the adults in their lives. The Search Institute study found that teens want parents and other older influencers to do the following:

1. Look at us.
2. Spend time talking with us.
3. Listen.
4. Be dependable.
5. Show appreciation for what we do.
6. Relax.
7. Show that you're interested.
8. Laugh with us (and at yourself).
9. Ask us to help you.
10. Challenge us.

I believe the apostle Paul did many of those things as he built into the life of a young man named Timothy. And, as number 10 on the list states, he truly did challenge him, writing, "*Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to*

*all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity” (I Timothy 4:12).* What’s impressive is that Timothy was dealing with the difficult challenge of tackling false teaching in the church at Ephesus, along with some bitter persecution. Yet Paul told him to boldly live out his faith — to be an example. And Timothy needed to look no further than the great example provided by Paul himself.

*“The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you” (Philippians 4:9).*

*“But you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium [and] at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord delivered me!” (II Timothy 3:10-11).*

If we want those who are younger to walk confidently in their faith, we must provide for them a living model. We need to show them the “*living God, who is the Savior of all people*” and “*keep a close watch on how [we] live*” (I Timothy 4:10,16). As they witness Jesus alive in us, it will help them take their own bold faith steps.

Let younger believers know that they can be an example to all believers. And, as you do, “*stay true to what is right for the sake of [your] own salvation and the salvation*” of these precious younger ones (I Timothy 4:16).

*“But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance. For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers. Prescribe and teach these things. Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. Until I come, give attention to the public reading [of Scripture,] to exhortation and teaching. Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed upon you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. Take pains with these things; be [absorbed] in them, so that your progress may be evident to all. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things; for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you” (I Timothy 4:7-10).*

Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity (I Timothy 4:12).

Read what Paul wrote to a friend in Titus 2:7 and consider how you can be an example to other believers — particularly younger ones.

Today, how will you encourage some younger believers you know? What example have you been setting for other believers in Jesus?