

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XVI

July 1, 2007

No. 26

How To Be Narrow Minded

H. Osby Weaver

There seems to be a feeling in some circles that tolerance and broadmindedness of almost everything is a mark of high civilization and evidence of bigness. Mr. Tom Anderson, who at one time was editor of Farm and Ranch Magazine, wrote an excellent article which he called “HOW TO BE NARROW-MINDED.” In part, we repeat some of the things which he had to say:

“One of our favorite words is tolerance. It is supposed to be a great virtue. In many cases ‘tolerance’ really means ‘absence of convictions,’ without any real morality. We are broad-minded about divorce, about sex play before, and occasionally after marriage, and even sex perversion. We condone stealing politicians, urging them to get everything they can out of the public for us before somebody else gets - ‘STEALS - IT.’

“We excuse murder, rape knifings, extortion and habitual delinquency because something in his childhood must have made

him that way. His mother either loved him too much or not enough. If anybody ever invents a ‘love-meter’ for mothers, it will be a tragic blow to psychiatrists and bleeding hearts who blame everything on environment. Environment does cause crime of course. Much of the youth crime committed today is boys and girls from well-to-do homes –spoiled brats who had it too good. Hardship and discipline build character. It takes courage to be ‘narrow-minded.’ The Bible of course is narrow-minded. So it the multiplication table, the boiling and freezing points of water, the compass radar, nature and the Kingdom of Heaven. The gates of Hell are ‘broad-minded’.”

Mr. Anderson zeros in on some of the problems of our time, and what he says could hardly be said better. It’s a little ridiculous, of course, to suppose that a man will jump off the Golden Gate Bridge or bash in the head of a helpless, elderly person because, as a child, his mother inhibited his little personality by not allowing him to slam a pie in the face of his baby sister, or throw his cereal bowl on the floor.

For the past several years, people have been embracing the unreasonable vaporings of so-called educators in the rearing of their children, and have for the same allotted time been reaping a continuing growth of juvenile delinquency. The idea is that “Johnny must not be curbed and Janie must be allowed to follow her natural bent.” Otherwise, their personalities might be warped. Such advice is not only contrary to experience and common sense: it is contrary to what the Bible teaches.

Ephesians 6:4 tells fathers to “bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” You will note that fathers are to “bring up” their children, not just allow them to waddle around and grow big! Not all of the wrong-doing children can be charged to their parents. Of course, but it is quite possible that if we had no delinquent parents, we would have fewer delinquent children. If we had more Hannahs, we might have more Samuels. If we had more mother Eunices and grandmother Loises, we might have more Timothys!