

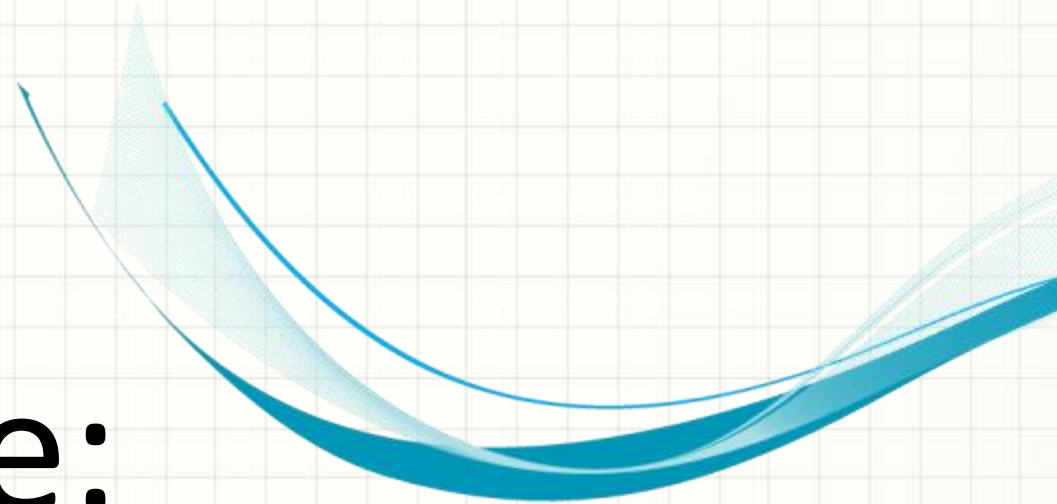


WHY DO CHURCHED (CHRISTIAN) KIDS LEAVE THE FAITH

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Hosanna Pathways, Castro Valley, CA
Hosanna Parent Project, Castro Valley, CA

Qualifications:

- *Celebrating 50 years of marriage in May 2011*
- *Biological father to three children who are serving in ministry*
- *Personal foster father to over eight hundred children*
- *Foster care agency founder/director since 1987 serving ten Bay Area Counties*
- *Parent Project facilitator, teaching parenting/management skills*
- *Member of the American Association of Christian Counselors*



Purpose:

- Identifying some contributing faults
- Identifying some necessary improvements

Serious Church Dropout Statistics:

- 88% Citizens for Excellence in Education in 1997
- 88% Southern Baptist Convention Family Life Study 2002
- 70% LifeWay Research Study 2007 (But 2/3's return)
- 61% Barna Research 2006 (ages 18 to 29)

Serious Church Dropout Statistics:

Silent Disappearance

1. Move away (Transitioning)
 - College
 - Job
 - Relocation
2. No longer a supervised age

Not necessarily intentional *

- Not relevant
- Respite

* 80% of who drop out did not plan to do so during high school



Faults

- Family Dysfunction
 - Fathers abandoning family
 - Single parenting
 - Estrangement (few if any nuclear activities)
 - Family worship activities neglected
 - Consistent church attendance
 - Sit together as a family!
 - Nursery?
 - Children's Church?
 - Limited family models for appropriate behavior



Faults

- Parental Dysfunction
 - Expect professionals to perform parental duties
 - Teachers
 - Counselors
 - Pastors
 - Sunday School Instructors
 - Youth Group Leaders
 - Too busy for relationship building
 - Substitute experience activities



Faults

- Parental Dysfunction (cont'd)
 - Failure to establish family value priorities
 - God
 - Academics
 - Work
 - Recreation
 - Failure to model and enforce modesty
 - Failure to protect children from secular values
 - Disrespect engenders disrespect
 - Failure to teach your children to pray



Faults

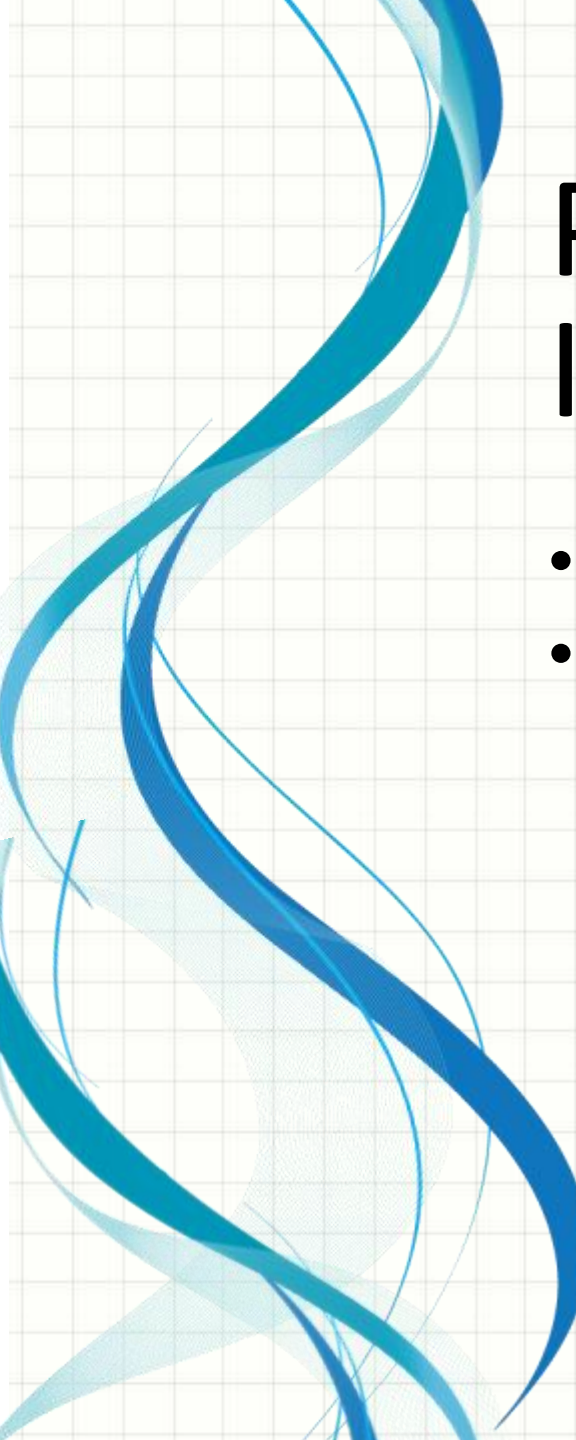
- **Church Dysfunction**

“Children’s church begins at the start of each service. Please take your nursery, preschool and grade school children directly to their class upon arrival. Nursing mothers can hear the service located in their own private room in the nursery. Our services are designed for adults and high school students. We ask that all children five and under participate in their classroom rather than in the adult service. We also provide a Parent Viewing Room for parents who need to have their young children sit with them.”



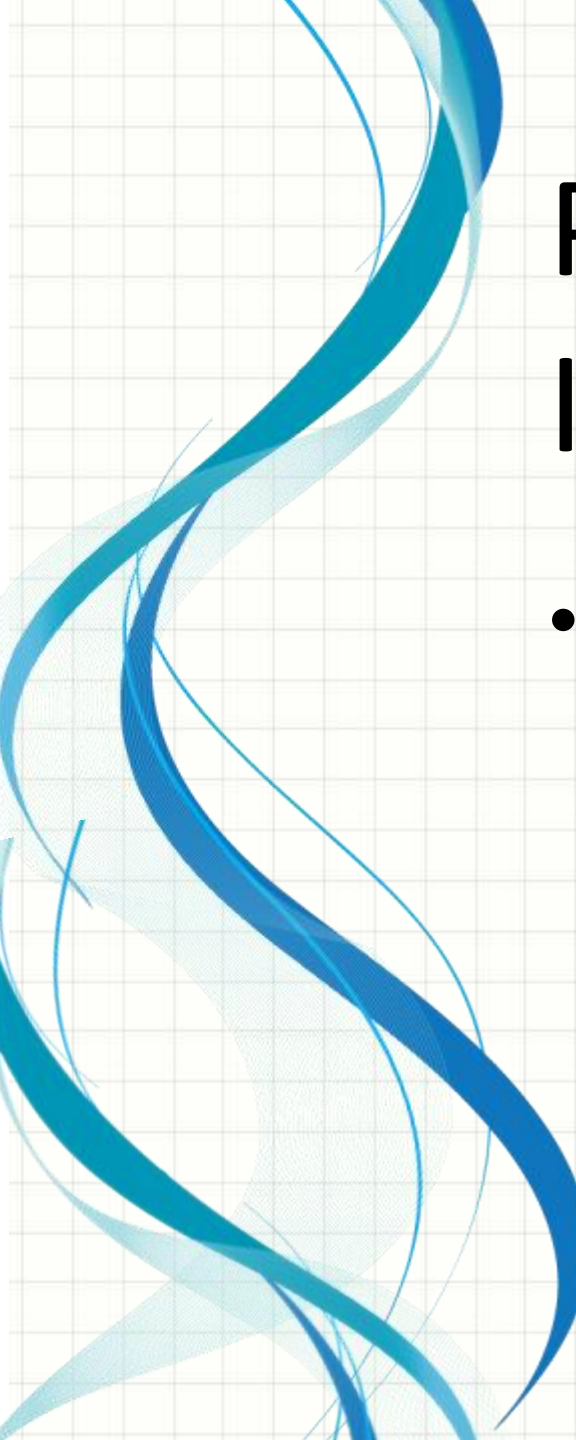
Faults

- Church Dysfunction
 - Entertainment oriented
 - Segregation
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Interest
 - Marital status



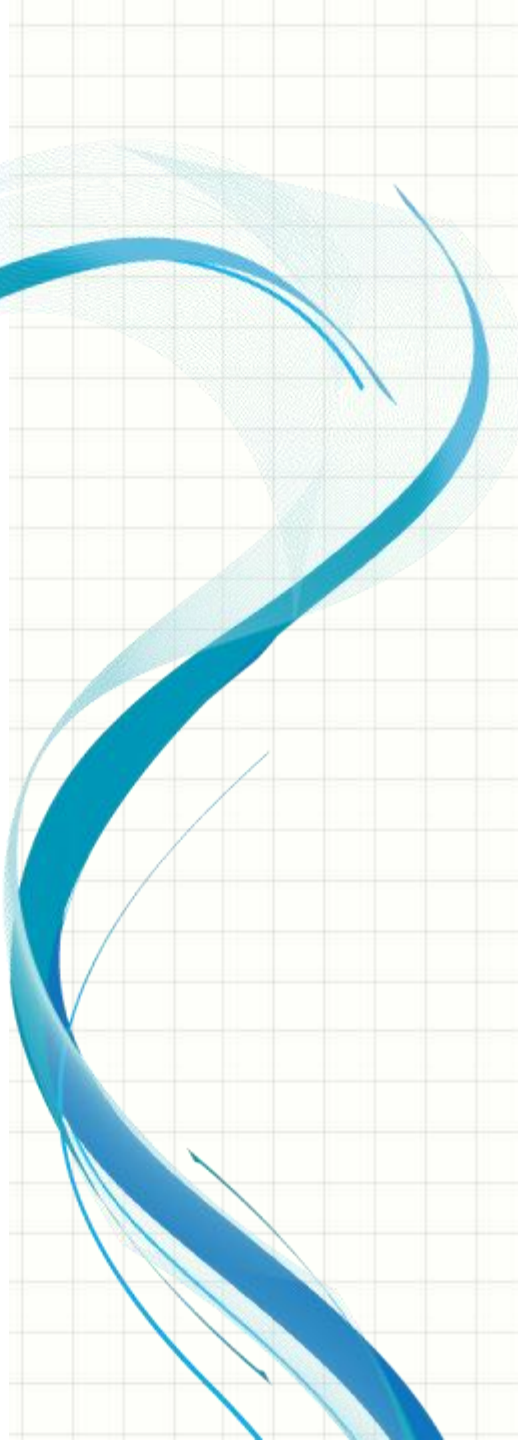
Possible Improvements

- Avoid or correct contributing faults
- Family
 - Focus on family relationships, not experiences
 - Engage in family, not individual, related ministry
 - Use your family resources, don't wait for manna



Possible Improvements

- Parental
 - Model righteous obedience and virtues
 - Model servant hood inside/outside your home



Possible Improvements

- Church

Old Testament:

As all the men of Judah stood before the LORD with their little ones, wives, and children, the Spirit of the LORD came...

II Chronicles 20:13a (New Living Translation)

Bring everyone – the elders, the children and even the babies.

Joel 2:16a (New Living Translation)

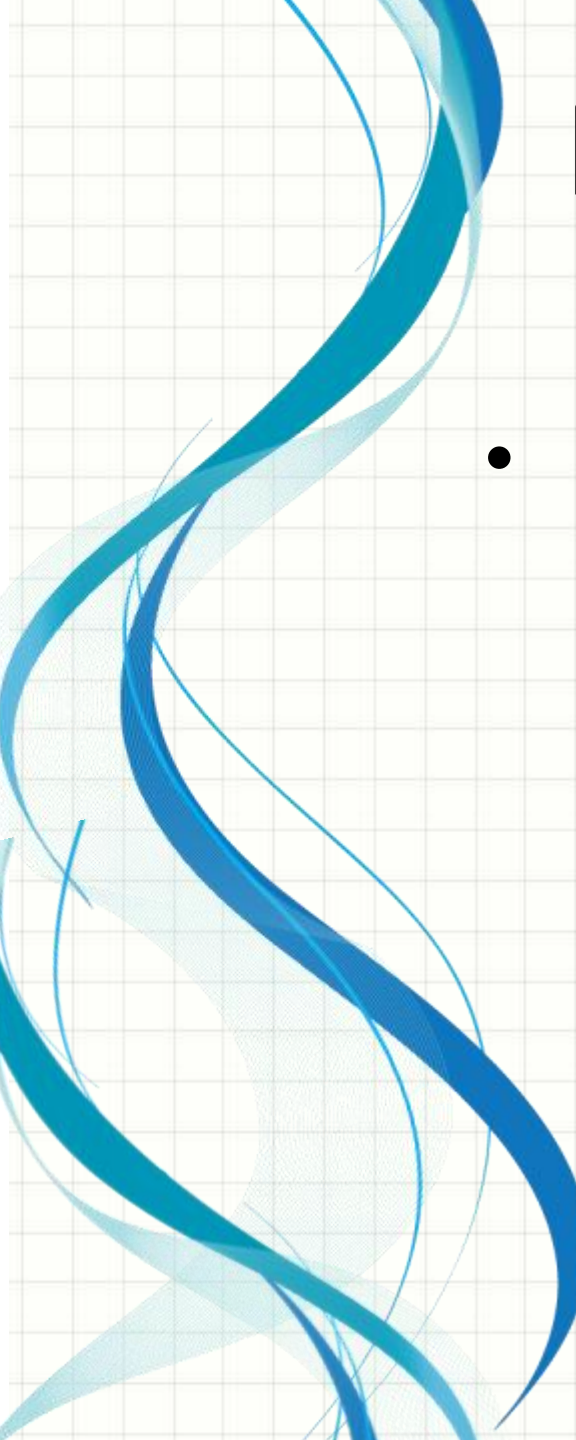
Possible Improvements

- Church (cont'd)

New Testament:

One day Jesus said to his disciples: “There will always be temptations to sin, but how terrible it will be for the person who does the tempting. It would be better to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around the neck than to face the punishment in store for harming one of these little ones. I am warning you! If another believer sins, rebuke him; then if he repents, forgive him.”

Luke 17:1-3 (New Living Translation)



Possible Improvements

- Church
 - Gently but fearlessly correct/reprove misbehavior
 - Focus on spiritual quality, not physical quantity
 - Ministry is challenging, seldom convenient or “fun”
 - Encourage family integration rather than segregation



QUESTION:

**NO MATTER OUR POSITION IN THE BODY OF CHRIST,
ARE WE, THROUGH OUR KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE,
BEHAVIOR AND INVOLVEMENT, CONTRIBUTING TO OR
DETRACTING FROM THE GREAT COMMISSION
THEREBY LOSING OUR CHILDREN IN THE PROCESS?**