
Sunday, November 26, 2017
Did You Know?

Children in Worship, Part 2

When it comes to children and parents worshiping together in our weekly worship it's important to think first about the why's, before we think about the if's or the how's. Why should we not only allow, but celebrate the presence of children in the service? This question is not only being asked to parents but to everyone, including the children.

The most important reason we worship together is because this is the pattern or model that's prescribed for us in God's Word. This point was mentioned in last week's article (see coahtoronto.com).

However, there are other reasons too. If you look at parenting these days, much of the raising of our children has been outsourced. What do I mean? Our kids spend 7 hours a day at school (or daycare) where they not only learn math and reading, but they are also taught our society's values, not all of which are good. Then we ship them off to hockey, dance, Kumon, and piano lessons...and then we drop them off at the Saturday program at church. Then many of our kids are entertained in front of iPads and smart phones. On top of that, take into consideration that in most homes, both parents are off working. How many hours a week then, do parents have to actually parent? Unfortunately, not many. Remember that the spiritual aspect of our parenting is the most important part. It's very important that we don't outsource this as well, even to the church. God desires that parents be the primary spiritual models and examples for their children. We want to model that in our Sunday worship.

In addition, when children are in the service, they are observing and learning. Yes, I understand that depending on their age, they do not understand a lot of the sermon. I will try to better accommodate them in the months to come, but slowly and yes, surely, they will begin to understand the Gospel, and more Biblical truth. One author/pastor has pointed out, and I quote,

The most important part of a local church's life is corporate worship, because in the weekly worship the Lord uniquely meets with his people by his Word and Spirit. He ministers to us by the ordinary means of grace. Churches and parents can chase after innovative programming to influence their kids, but corporate worship is what the all-wise God has ordained. These ordinary means of grace are effective for everyone, including children. The more we place kids in the way of them, the more opportunities they have for their souls to encounter the God of grace. (Jason Helopolous)

There will be one or two more articles to come on this subject, where we will try to get more practical, but for now, allow last week's and today's article to help paint a fuller picture as to why we are doing what we are doing.

Soli Deo Gloria
Pastor Peter