

Living to Win

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The Heart of a Child

From Ronald L. Dart's *Born to Win* Notes

In my years of education, from the first grade in 1940, until I graduated from high school in 1952, I don't remember hearing of a single school shooting.

I went off to the Navy for four years, and then to college for six years, and I still don't recall hearing of a single school shooting. Now, it has become like an epidemic. Has something changed?

Were there just as many school shootings in years gone by and we just didn't hear about them? Did the media just treat them as isolated tragedies? Are we hearing about these shootings now because of the gun control movement?

I do remember a group of kids taking shelter under a tree in a thunderstorm. They were all killed when lightning struck the tree. But that was just a tragedy of nature. A terrible accident. Yet it got press coverage.

No, its not just a change in news reporting. Something has changed. And it is not just the availability of guns. Guns were as common as cornbread when I was growing up and we weren't shooting teachers with them.

How do perfectly normal, nonabusive families produce a

killer? I'd like to have the answer to that, and I'll bet you would too.

Not long ago, I was reading my hometown paper and there was another student shooting another teacher. And it made about as much sense as a lightning strike. The boy, who was only 13, had been sent home and suspended from school for throwing water balloons on the last day of classes. He came back later that afternoon with a .25 caliber pistol and shot a teacher in the face. It wasn't even the teacher who sent him home.

He was not a problem student. He was a good kid. Now his life has been ruined. The teacher's life is over, and the lives of the teacher's

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family and the family of the kid have been wrecked.

This little shooter had no idea of the consequences of what he did. Only now is it beginning to dawn on him what he did. And what worries me is that the politicians are going to cover this all up in the name of gun control and no one is going to deal with the real issues.

What is it that has changed? One

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It's a Team Effort. . .

CEM is a small, dedicated organization trying to do big things for Christ. In and of itself, CEM is very limited. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples that, from there on, it would be a team effort. They had the specific responsibility to go make disciples. They were to impact the lives of others. That same Great Commission applies to each one of us. One of many ways you can impact the lives of others is to sponsor the *Born to Win* broadcast in your own community. Please call Cathy Gibbons of GG Media Production, our media agent, at 903-839-7070 to discuss how you and/or your church can team up with CEM to multiply the impact you have on others by sponsoring the *Born to Win* broadcast.

Economics and the World Order

By C. Roderick Martin, a CEM board member

In the coming issues of *Living to Win*, Christian Educational Ministries will present a series of articles concerning the unprecedented changes in economic conditions around the world, their impact on the World Order, and how these rapid developments could affect you personally in light of Scripture. Before we begin, prudence dictates we first understand the predominant schools of economic thought which have greatly influenced monetary and fiscal policies in the West over the past 100 years.

John Maynard Keynes (1883-1946), son of a respected British economist, attended Eton and Cambridge where he later lectured in economics. Keynes held that capitalism was inherently flawed and that a stable economy depended on the continued governmental stimulation of spending and investment through adjustments of interest rates, tax rates, and deficit financing. Few economists would disagree with Keynes' belief that capitalism, by its very nature, is flawed. The disagreement arises as to how best to manage it.

Friedrich Hayek (1899-1992) was of the Austrian school of economic thought. Austrian economists are deeply skeptical of gov-

ernmental intervention in the economy, especially in the monetary system. Their beliefs are libertarian (total freedom of thought, expression, and will as it relates to economics; free markets without governmental intrusions). Staunch supporters of the free market, they do not believe capitalism is to blame, but rather government intervention, regulation, and monetary policy that interfere with the free market. Left alone, the free market will correct itself.

These two schools of economic thought divide America today. Ronald Reagan was a strong believer in Austrian economics and Hayek, whom he met on several occasions. Barak Obama is Keynesian, as was Franklin Roosevelt. This is the principle reason Congress cannot agree on what day of the week it is, much less fiscal and monetary policy. Republicans, for the most part, subscribe to Hayek's conclusions, while Democrats, for the most part, are Keynesian. These differing economic philosophies have become almost religious in nature. Neither side is willing to compromise its position. Abraham Lincoln, in a speech at the Republican State Convention in Springfield, Illinois,

on June 16, 1858, said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Lincoln paraphrased this quote from Christ in Mark 3:25. We are a divided nation.

Economics, often described as a behavioral science because behavior plays such a crucial role in determining desired outcomes, is not an exact science. Human behavior—this is the wild card. There is no better source to understand human behavior than the Holy Bible. Unfortunately, most Americans have forgotten their Bibles. We are about to pay a heavy price for this indiscretion.

With the foundation laid, in coming weeks we will explore current economic developments—specifically, US debt, European debt, and the coming banking crisis and what this portends. In a world of instant communication, where billions of dollars move across borders with the push of a button, what happens in Europe will have grave consequences to economies around the world, especially the United States. The world has become very small. The great expanses of the Atlantic and Pacific, which have served as sentinels in the past, can no longer protect us. We can no longer hide.

A God Adored

From Ronald L. Dart's notes

Ron said it was a piece of music that first made him think about this. He was sure it was one of the old hymns he couldn't remember. And the

thought returned from time to time, playing around the edge of consciousness, until one day he listened to a magnificent choral

work that contained this short couplet: "Waves rolling in on every shore, Pause at His footfall and adore."

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thing that is very different about today's schools is the lack of discipline. Discipline is a civilizing force for children in that it teaches them that actions have consequences. I know that there is such a thing as child abuse and it is reprehensible. But I also know that children are little savages, and if they aren't civilized by some means, they will make your life miserable.

I can remember my first spanking in school. I think it was in the second or third grade. I'd been riding the seesaw and a bigger kid got on the other end and bounced me good until I said a bad word. Some snitch went in and told the teacher what I said, and I got three good swats with a paddle. I don't think it improved my language very much, but it did underline a message I was getting at home. Actions have consequences. If you do bad things, bad things result from it.

You see, life takes too long to teach its lessons and the stakes are too high. If you tell your kid not to go out into the street, you have two choices. You can underline that teaching with some form of discipline, or you can let life teach the kid.

Problem is, life may come in the form of an 18-wheeler that turns the kid into red jam on the street. So you must find a way to teach lessons and apply discipline without abusing the child. Far be it from me to tell parents how to discipline children. I don't have the credentials. I am just a lowly Bible teacher. What do I know? I do know I could get in a lot of trouble these days for advocating biblical discipline.

What shall I do? Would you like to hear what the Bible says about discipline? Shall I test the system and see if I can read certain Scriptures from the Bible without getting a lawsuit? Well, shucks, we are supposed to have First Amendment rights in this country, so why not.

Read what the Bible says and you can decide what you think. Are you ready for this? Proverbs 23:12-14: "Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge. Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."

Now "beat" may be too strong a word, so I looked it up in Hebrew, and it means "to strike." What the Bible is talking about here is caning. Now it is up to you. You can conclude that this is what a primitive people did who didn't know any better; or you can conclude that the ancients knew what they were talking about; or you can conclude that God himself approves of corporal punishment.

Shall we try another one? "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes" (Proverbs 13:24). Sound brutal? Cruel? Maybe. But isn't it cruel to allow a child to grow up without discipline and ruin his life that way?

"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying. A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment: for if thou deliver him, yet thou must do it again" (Proverbs 19:18-19).

One of the things kids have to learn is how to deal with their anger. Fail to teach this when they are young and they are likely to struggle all

their lives. These things don't always have to be taught with corporal punishment, but they do have to be taught with discipline.

I know that child psychologists have had different theories. Problem is, they have practiced their theories on your kids, and sometimes the theories have been dead wrong.

"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him" (Proverbs 22:15). Is this just a bunch of Old Testament fogeyes, or is it a divine principle?

"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world" (1 Corinthians 11:31-32). "Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin" (Hebrews 12:4). "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?" (vv. 5-7).

But there is a caution here. You can't just beat a child; you have to teach a child. "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame" (Proverbs 29:15).

If you're a parent, doubtless there have been times when you didn't know the right course of action when your child disobeyed. Never in the history of man has knowing how and when to discipline a child been more important. This

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FREE CD, *The Heart of a Child*, is a very important tool in giving you the balance you need to get the results you desire.

The Bible says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children" (Hosea 4:6). You certainly don't want God to forget your children. So don't delay, call 1-888-BIBLE-44 today and get this FREE CD reserved just for you. Or simply check the box and return the enclosed card.

*A God Adored
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The couplet was followed by a set of hallelujahs, but Ron didn't hear them. He was thinking about a God adored even by the waves of the sea. Adoration is not mere love. It goes far beyond that. Ron asked himself long ago if he loved God and assured himself that he did. But now he began to wonder. And it was no longer music that asked, "Do you love me?" It was the Scripture itself. And he realized that all those who had written the great hymns about the adoration of God had themselves gone to the Scriptures to examine themselves with the question Jesus asked Peter: "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?"

In a man's lifetime, he may go through many stages in his relationship with God: a God feared, a God dreaded, a God respected, a

God obeyed, a God loved, a God adored. These stages often surprise us. It surprised Ron.

Ron took botany to avoid biology. He didn't want to cut up a frog and endure the smell of formaldehyde. So he found himself looking through a microscope at thin strands of spirogyra, a kind of freshwater algae. They looked like canes of bamboo, with joints between cells and a nucleus in each cell. He thought that was cool, but under the instructor's guidance, Ron looked more carefully and saw that where the strands were parallel and close to each other, the cell walls began to bulge toward one another. Then, to his utter astonishment, the walls touched, opened up, and the nucleus from one cell passed into the other and joined with the other nucleus. Ron looked up from the microscope, open-mouthed, and exclaimed, "Plants have sex!"

What fascinated him then and continued to puzzle him was how the two filaments were able to sense the other's presence and by what intelligence they carried out the mating process. It struck Ron with total awe for the intelligent designer of this little piece of life. Awe is "an overwhelming feeling of reverence, admiration, fear, or wonder produced by that which is grand, sublime, extremely powerful." Ron said that describes how he felt in that moment.

We all go through stages in our relationship with God. Knowing about God is one of those stages. But how we feel about God is another thing altogether. Realizing that takes us back to the shores of the sea of Galilee and a short walk with Jesus. Ron knew Peter was

stricken with self doubt after denying Jesus while the Master was being tormented on that long night. And it drove the knife in deep when Jesus asked him, "Simon, do you love me?" He didn't just ask him once; Jesus asked him three times.

When Ron put himself in Peter's shoes, he could imagine how uncomfortable that question would make him. How can you truly love someone you hardly know? How can you adore someone you have only heard about and have never even seen? And yet, from that one small moment peering through a microscope at what God had made, Ron felt the stirring of great adoration, perhaps the beginning of real love.

In Memory

Christian Educational Ministries is most grateful for the very generous donation made in memory of Rose C. Stolar, of Modesto, California, who passed away November 11, 2011. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law. Mrs. Stolar enjoyed listening to the *Born to Win* broadcast.

Christian Educational Ministries

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*That the man of God may be
proficient and equipped for
every good work.*