

### **I Review of Model of Life A**

- A. Regional Work, Models of Life (Christ-centered vs), Cultural Influences, the Culture of Self, Christ-centered Living (challenge, questions), What can we do?, "You shall know the Truth"
- B. Tonight... Step back from: Regional work (CCP, etc), Models A, reiterate "What to Do"
- C. But first...

### **II Review: Raising Children to be Idiots (Larry Badaczewski) (handout in Jan)**

### **III. Barna Group Study (a Christian research company)**

- A. Overall results :
  - 1) Christian parents are more likely to put an emphasis on seeing that their children get a good education than seeing them enter adulthood as followers of Christ.
  - 2) Christians in the U.S. don't parent much differently than the population at large
  - 3) Believers do not (significantly) train their children to think or act differently enough for faith to make a difference: gambling, excessive drinking, cohabitation, adultery, divorce, and other unbiblical behaviors (statistically) just as likely

### **IV. The fallout of the nuclear family**

- 1) an island unto itself (3-mile island?); the walled-in siege mentality
- 2) breaking with traditions of extended family
- 3) " " geography " "
- 4) everyone starts over (an American trend); everyone reinvents the wheel
- 5) one result: incoherent culture...families don't: build to clans, clans to tribes, tribes to a people

### **IV. "If-Then" scriptures man's part/God's part**

- A. Examples from scripture (includes some implied "thens")
  - computer programs... arithmetic tests/life tests
  - Heb 3:15 "If today you hear His voice, harden not your heart"
  - Jn 3:3 and the rest of the N.T.
  - John 8:51, 9:31, 10:9, 11:40, 12:24 & 26, 13:14& 35, 14:14 & 23, 15:7,10-11 & 14
- B. "If we then live according to His plan and raise our children according to His plan, we will see the fruit of the Christian life and the power of Baptism in the Spirit revealed."
  - we're not there yet

### **V. What To Do?**

- A. Introduction
  1. A Lot of Things Point to Trouble, but Many things point to hope.
  2. The Lord is sovereign
- B. Steps to take
  1. It starts with us... suspect the self
  2. Return to scripture (reading, studying, living)
  3. Rekindle Fear of the Lord: sin has consequences
  4. We really need to face the child centered parenting issue (it's a big issue)
  5. We really need to confront the frenetic schedule
    - requires decisions: 1) education not as important as the Lord and His plan; 2) decide to go a different path... decide to parent differently; 3) decide for Kingdom-centered family instead of success, education, achievement, etc
  6. As we approach the Challenge of Pentecost time, seek what conversions the Lord might be asking for: Personally, less self-centered; Family, less self-centered; Parenting for the Lord and His Kingdom; Building the Kingdom according to His Logos and Rhema.