

# LOSING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

By Keith Greer

During the last few years many parents have become brokenhearted over their children going the way of the world. Why does it happen? Consider some of these reasons.

**Lack of Proper Training.** "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." {Proverbs 22:6} Do our children inherit our faith? Faith comes from hearing God-not us. Romans 10:17 In our homes we should be teaching not only by taking them to services but by the lives we live. Too many children grow up in homes where what is taught in church is not practiced in the home.

**Hypocritical Parents.** "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth." {1 John 3:18} We may be able to fool other people but we will not fool our children. Do they see the same person on Monday that they see on Sunday? The quickest way for parents to lose the respect from their children is to play the role of a hypocrite. They learn more by what they SEE than what we SAY.

**Worldly Friends.** "Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits. "{1 Corinthians 15:33} Many a child has gone wrong by running with the wrong kind of people. Our children need to learn the lessons of "guilty by association." One cannot run with worldly minded people and not have it rub off on them.

**Evil Influences.** "Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. "{1 Thessalonians 5:21,22} Influences and temptations are all around our children— TV, movies, music, and peer pressure. Parents must limit the amount of these evil influences in their children's lives. No, we can't place them in a protective bubble-but we can help them make good choices.

**Church Problems.** What happens when a young person is a member of a church that is constantly fussing, feuding, along with power struggles, personalities, and opinions? Talking bad about our brethren and the preacher behind their backs— what messages do we send to our children? \*\*\*