

## SHALL I FORCE MY CHILD TO GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL?

by J. Edgar Hoover

Let me tell you of the experience of one juvenile court judge who, over a period of eight years, had some 8,000 boys and girls under 17 years of age brought before him for violating the law.

Of these 8,000 delinquent children only 42 attended Sunday school. None of these children had a mother or father who attend Sunday school or church regularly.

It is the whole objective of Sunday-school training to turn such young people toward God—to make them truly religious adherents. When this is accomplished they will attend services simply as an essential part of their scheme of living. But this is not an overnight objective.

The individual must be subjected to the Sunday-school influence over a period of time to bring it about. Thus, every motive that will bring new members to the Sunday school no matter what their degree of conviction at the time, should be exploited to the utmost.

How else shall the uninstructed child be exposed to the influence of Christian principles? How shall he have opportunity to know the rewards of a Christian way of life?

It is particularly essential that early childhood be afforded the influence of the Sunday school, for these influences brought to bear in the formative years will determine much of the whole course of future behavior.

The youth who has experienced old-fashioned Christian training and discipline in the home, and has received sound, efficient Bible teaching in the Sunday school has been given a sword and buckler against temptation.

No matter how brilliant a student he may be of ethics and philosophy in the secular sense, he must receive the inspiration of sincere religious conviction if he is to be protected from the rampant ideology of materialism which leads to lack of moral responsibilities and lawlessness.

The Sunday-school teachers of the nation are doing a truly magnificent job. They are insuring that the child who is so fortunate as to come into the Sunday-school fold receives an introduction to the Word of God, the unequalled guide to righteous living and faith in the future. They are laying "upon a rock" the foundations of Christian character in their disciples, the Sunday-school scholars. Our hopes for the future are in their hands.

Surely no parent can be blind to the creeping paralysis of secularism and materialism which continues to infect the moral fiber of the world. Surely every parent worthy of the name will recognize the essential part Sunday-school training must play in developing Christian ideals and staunch moral stability in the children whose moral character and philosophy of life are their parents' most pressing responsibility.

Let us place their trust in the Sunday school and the Sunday-school teacher. Not only will their children become better men and women for the Sunday-school's training, but the nation will become a better nation, and the world a better place. For with every child who is taught to accept Christian ethics as his guide to daily living, secular materialism as a national philosophy is dealt a crippling blow.

The banners of Christ can lead the way to the moral and spiritual rebirth of our great nation. In the forefront of His banner-bearers are the Sunday schools.

## BROKEN HOMES

by

Emma Fall Schofield—in Alcohol Digest

During the 27 years I have been judge of the criminal and juvenile sessions of our district court, I have had hundreds of cases brought before me where the husbands have deserted their wives and children. I would say that in a great majority of these cases liquor has been the chief cause of difficulty.

The National Desertion Bureaus gave testimony to the Senate subcommittee to the effect that there are over 4 million estranged mothers and children who are not being adequately supported by the absent fathers. Aid to Dependent Children, commonly called ADC, was being given to 936,000 mothers and children at an approximate cost of 252,000,000 dollars annually in federal, state, and local funds.

The cost to our state and nation, however, cannot be reckoned in money alone. Fatherless homes are not normal homes, and frequently they produce children who add to the juvenile delinquency rate of our communities. Although the exact percentage cannot be accurately determined, sociologists have said that 85 percent of our delinquents come from broken homes.

One has only to visit the sessions of the divorce court in his county to learn how frequently liquor is given as the cause of abusive treatment, the ground on which the libelant is seeking to secure a divorce from her husband. Almost countless divorce actions are brought on the ground of "gross and habitual use of intoxicating liquor."

I remember the imploring and terrified face of a 10 year-old-girl who had been brought into the juvenile session with her five younger brothers and sisters as neglected children. The father was in jail for drunkenness, the mother was spending time with her drinking cronies in taverns, and the little 10 year-old "mother" had been trying to hold the family together. Because conditions became so serious, neighbours finally reported the case to the police. The children were taken away from the mother temporarily which gave her a sufficient jolt that she began to mend her ways.

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### A BOY

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

I took a piece of plastic clay  
And idly fashioned it one day;  
And as my fingers pressed it still  
It bent and yielded to my will.  
I came again when days were past  
The bit of clay was hard at last;  
My early impress it still bore  
And I could change its form no more.

You take a piece of living clay  
And gently form it day by day;  
Moulding with your power and art  
A young boy's soft and yielding heart.  
You come again when years are gone,  
It is a man you look upon  
Your early impress still he bore  
And you can change him nevermore!

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