



Church Connection October 2018

Strengthening, Preserving & Promoting Marriage, Family, Life & Religious Liberty

When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also....And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

II Timothy 1:5 & 3:15

Join us for...

"Making Wisconsin Great One Family at a Time"

An informative and practical challenge by Julaine Appling, WFC president

Thurs., Oct. 11, 6-8 p.m., Radisson Hotel, La Crosse

Thurs., Oct. 25, 6-8 p.m., Racine, Taylor Hall at The DeKoven Center

Thurs., Nov. 1, 6-8 p.m., Golden Corral in Kenosha

Thurs., Nov. 8, 6-8 p.m., West Bend Pizza Ranch

Election Day, Nov. 6
Be sure to vote!

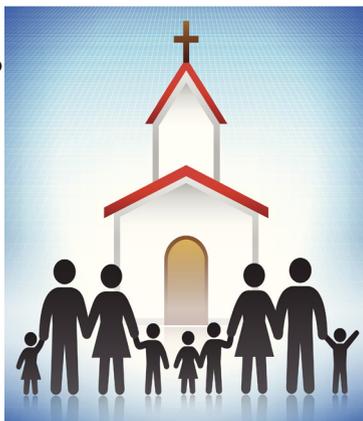
Churches & Parents Partnering Together

How can churches equip parents to lead well by being spiritual leaders at home?

Earlier this year a denominational publication addressed this very important question in an article entitled "Partnering with Parents" (author anonymous). The major points are worth sharing and considering.

The article first considered how much time a church has each year to influence a child and how much time parents have each year. If a child goes to every service a church has—Sunday School, morning worship, Sunday evening service, midweek service or another youth night or other youth group activities during the week, the church has about 338 hours per year

to influence a child. With children too young for youth groups, that number drops to about 234. Assume the child is in school and that means the school has about 1260 hours per year to influence a child. Take out 8 hours a night for sleep, and parents have about 4,200 hours each year to influence their child. It becomes clear that parents have the most opportunity to influence a child, which is in keeping with God's plan.



Then the article gives 5 key points known as the Orange Strategy, attributed to Reggie Joiner.

- Nothing is more important than someone's relationship with God.
- No one has more potential influence in a child's relationship with God than a parent.
- No one has more potential to influence the parent than the church.
- The church's potential to influence a child dramatically increases when it partners with a parent.
- The parent's potential to influence a child dramatically increases when the parent partners with the church.

(continued on back)

To Vote or Not to Vote?

Romans 13:1 is clear that the “powers,” *i.e.*, the authorities that exist have been “ordained” by God. The word *ordained* here is a word that means “placed, appointed to an office, to order or determine.”

Have you ever asked yourself, “How does God place authorities into office?” It seems clear that in this country, He has chosen to do so through the electorate—that is each of us as citizens. We can choose to participate in this process or not, but we do not get to absolve ourselves of responsibility by saying that God appoints our leaders, because His method of appointing them in this country is through us—the citizens of this country.

As the people of God, let us not choose the path of comfortable complacency. Rather, let us partner with our great God in the appointing of the authorities in our lives, for His glory, and for the good of our neighbor.

For help evaluating candidates for national and statewide offices, visit the website

iVoterGuide.com.

In summary, the Orange Strategy is all about the church and the family working together to leverage influence in a child’s life. The church shouldn’t encourage parents to do more than is reasonable, but rather to take just the next step in nurturing children to know and love God. The church, for instance, gives some practical suggestions: have a family meal together regularly; moms connect or reconnect with sons and help them know they matter; dads pray with their kids at bedtime; parents commit to be in church regularly as a family; families read and discuss a devotional that fosters conversation about what God is doing in the life of a teen; etc.

Churches should intentionally focus on the hours they have opportunity to influence a child and make quality use of that time. Perhaps churches should consider focusing more on family ministry than on children’s ministry, with considerable time given to building relationships with kids and parents that point everyone to Jesus. Another suggestion—based on the premise that as children get older they start looking to others for input into their lives—is that each child have 5 safe adults, in addition to their parents, who really get to know the child and will commit to praying for the child and being there to advise and encourage. (These would be adults within the church who are trusted by the parents.)

The whole idea is that churches actively support parents with Biblical teaching, tools and resources that help parents lead their kids into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ and that churches also play a vital role in discipling (note, that’s not *disciplining!*) the children in their church family.

God’s plan for family is beautiful—a married dad and mom bringing up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord the biological and/or adopted children God gives them. God’s plan for the church is beautiful, too: a body of believers investing in each other’s lives in authentic and truly helpful ways. This includes partnering with parents, with the goal of raising Jesus-followers who become Christian young people, strong in their faith, no matter what they face; and who become faithful church members themselves, some day replicating in their own children what they have had growing up. May the Lord grant us parents and churches, partnering together, for His glory and the good of our children.

About Wisconsin Family Council

Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious liberty in our state.

“Church Connection” is published monthly by WFC and is available to churches in Wisconsin.

PO Box 14440 | Madison WI 53708 | 888-378-7395 (toll free) | info@wifamilycouncil.org | wifamilycouncil.org