

Family Legacy Institute

Tools For Families Building Godly Legacies

Developing A Biblical Sexual Worldview Chapter VII

They Traffic Children

A Bible Study for *Mature* Christ-followers

~by Dr. John P. Splinter

One way to measure the values of a culture is to observe how its children fare. Are the children treasured and protected? Are they cherished and nurtured? Or are they seen more like livestock, little creatures to be treated somewhat as tools? For example, it is reported that during the Industrial Revolution children as young as four were put to use in factories. In England, children as young as five used to labor in mines. Charles Dickens' parents were in debtor's prison, and so at age twelve he worked in a "blacking" factory, applying stain and polish to shoes, purses belts, etc. During those dark old days a high number of children were also used as prostitutes.

The "Second Great Awakening" spiritual movement occurred in America during the early- to mid-1800s, at approximately the same historical moment as the Industrial Revolution. The impact of this spiritual awakening continued to shape our culture for decades. One of the results of the Great Awakening involved the cultural value of children. For example, by the 1870s and 1880s America saw the advent of child labor laws. A quarter of our states adopted laws prohibiting child labor before 1880; an additional 15 states adopted similar laws during the 1880s. In the 1890s our culture sought to extend these laws by requiring attendance at school, and raising the minimum age of employment. The correlation between spiritual awakening and the value of children was clearly seen.

Today in America, children are basically prohibited from working for a regular wage until they reach the age of 16. And the sexual use of children is a cultural taboo. To be more accurate, we should say that until recently, it has been a cultural taboo. However, with the advent of the Internet, child pornography has become routinely available, and in the last few years in our country child sexual slavery, once assumed to happen only in such far-away places as Thailand or India, is beginning to thrive in the USA. Based upon evidence that will be presented in a few moments, it could be argued that we are at a cultural point of transition, beginning to tip once again in the direction of tolerance for the raw mistreatment of children.

Let's look at some facts. The FBI estimates that in America today there may be as many as 300,000 children between the ages of 9 – 19 being held ("owned") by pimps who sell the children's sexual services.¹ Today it's called, "Sex Trafficking," and is extremely lucrative.

One researcher estimates that the average predator (in the USA) can make in excess of \$200,000.00 per year of one young girl.²

The most common way pimps control these children is to get them hooked on drugs (cocaine, heroin) as *quickly as possible* – within hours of plucking them off the streets. The pimp then becomes the source of drugs for the child. The child knows that without the pimp's drugs, life would become unbearable within a few hours. The child also believes that now that she's a prostitute, her parents would be horribly ashamed of her. So she's locked into the pimp's web of drugs and prostitution until she dies or becomes useless and is discarded like a worn out shoe.

Foreign girls that are put into prostitution are not only coerced into drug addiction, but are moved around from place to place so as not to be able to figure out how to seek help. Truck stops are often active locations for prostitution.

The girls often “fall in love” with their pimps. It's known as the “Stockholm Syndrome,” a psychological condition in which hostages “bond” with their captors. In the USA, the most widely publicized example of this phenomenon involved newspaper heiress Patty Hearst who was kidnapped by an underground terrorist organization calling themselves the “Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA).” As strange as it seemed to the nation, some months after her kidnap she participated in a bank robbery as a “member” of the SLA. So it is that young girls actually believe their pimps love them and have their best interests at heart.

From where do these children come?