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Characteristics of A Juvenile Delinquent

Part II-Societal Influences | Peer Pressure |
Parental Absence

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Genesis 3 (NASB)
The Fall of Man

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³ but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" ⁴ The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸ They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself." ¹¹ And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Introduction

Exactly What Does A Juvenile Delinquent Look Like?

Risk Factors | Protective Factors

In spite of the values parents may instill within their children at young ages, they are generally still susceptible to negative societal influences. These influences can stem anywhere from peer pressure, to choices in music, to choices in friends, to inappropriate adult influences, and more. The result is all-too-often their participation in some form or fashion in illegal activities. These activities may include, but are by no means limited to, drug addiction, violence against peers, crimes against property such as stealing, etc. And it can happen to anyone, regardless of socioeconomic status, background or upbringing. And once the authorities become involved, the damages can be quite difficult, though not impossible, to reverse.

"Rapid population growth, the unavailability of housing and support services, poverty, unemployment and underemployment among youth, the decline in the authority of local communities, overcrowding in poor urban areas, the disintegration of the family, and ineffective educational systems, are some of the pressures young people must deal with."

- Juvenile Delinquency | World YOUTH Report 2003



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Interpersonal Conflict and Socialization

As parents continually struggle to adequately provide for their families, their survival activities are taking them further and further from the significant points in the lives of their children. Although most parents are seeking to do "the right things", the practical dynamics of that very struggle can create enormous voids within the developmental stages of the children's lives, stages for which there is virtually no substitute for parental involvement. The kids, in turn, begin to seek love and acceptance in "all the wrong places".

And because more concerned adults, are not generally available to them, our children are being deceived, and recruited by the thousands, into a plethora of ungodly and illegal activities. This is happening every single day, and it is happening everywhere. Some of it is reversible through the Juvenile Courts, Schools, Law Enforcement, Faith and Community-Based organizations, and the intense individual efforts of a few. A great deal of the damage done to our children, however, all-too-often results in permanent career, psychological, and personal losses that require more of a struggle to overcome than any of us can manage alone.

Young Men vs. Young Women

Nationally, the divide between young men and young women, as it relates to their propensity to get into trouble with the law, is becoming smaller and smaller.

"Most of the growth rate in the male and female delinquency caseloads took place between 1985 and 1997. During that time the growth rate in the female caseload outpaced the growth rate in the male caseload (101% vs. 54%)..."

"The average annual growth rate in the female caseload outpaced that for males for all offense categories between 1985 and 2008." (Emphasis added)

- Juvenile Court Statistics 2008 | NCJJ/OJJDP

Solutions

In our next Newsletter we will explore the value of utilizing "Evidence-Based" programming in our Community and Faith-Based efforts to combat and eradicate Juvenile Delinquency...Stay Tuned!

Always feel welcome to contact me directly with any questions, comments, or great ideas!

Jack Johnson

Executive Director

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The underlying rationale of the juvenile court system is that youth are developmentally different from adults and that their behavior is malleable. Rehabilitation and treatment, therefore, in addition to community protection, are considered to be primary and viable goals.

Limitations are placed on public access to juvenile records because of the belief that juvenile offenders can be successfully rehabilitated, and to avoid their unnecessary stigmatization.

The juvenile justice system follows a psychological casework approach, taking into account a detailed assessment of the youth's history in order to meet his or her specific needs. The juvenile offender faces a hearing, rather than a trial, which incorporates his social history as well as legal factors.

Court proceedings may be confidential to protect privacy.

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