

Tit 2:3-6 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, (4) so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored. (6) Likewise urge the young men to be sensible;

As a child and as a young man who grew up in a godly home, I always wondered why “Older women” needed to “encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children”

Surely all the young women “loved their husbands”

It took time to understand the Bible concept of love from an intellectual standpoint, although I and my brother and sisters experienced it all our lives.

In fact, I knew how my father was supposed to treat me.

Mat 6:26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?

Mat 6:30 "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith!

Heb 12:7-8 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? (8) But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

Heb 12:9-10 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? (10) For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.

My parents went into business in the little town I grew up in because they were afraid that if they moved away, I might never go to college.

Both of my parents worked to provide me with access to an education, both spiritually and earthly, because they followed God.

Neither of my parents finished their college start and they felt they couldn't provide as well as they should have in my early life due to their lack of education.

“Neuroscientist sees kids suffer brain damage due to dire poverty”

I want to show you that what he is really seeing is a lack of love – Biblical love – both a love of God and a love of our fellow man. It has little to do with poverty.

Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Charles Nelson is a professor of neuroscience and pediatrics at Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. First he studied children in Romania.

Romania had a long and egregious history of institutionalising kids. In 1989, when the communists were overthrown, there were 170,000 children in institutions. We thought, just from sheer numbers, it would be a good place to do some research. So in the late 1990s, we started a study of children who had been abandoned in government-run institutions.

What Nelson does not say is that these were the children of atheism – communists, who thought that children did not need love – Biblical love, a care and understanding – just enough food to keep them alive.

What were the institutions like?

We had a rule: no crying in front of the children. But it was tough. I can't tell you how emotional this was. Sometimes you'd have to leave the room because you were so overwhelmed by the suffering of the children and the callousness of the staff.

On the second day of my first trip there, I saw a kid who was maybe 18 months old, standing in the middle of the room, crying. She had wet her pants and no one was paying any attention to her. I asked the staff: "What's her story?" And they told me that her mother had left her there that morning and that she'd been like that all day.

There's child poverty in the US, so why study children in Bangladesh?

I'm interested in the effects of early adversity. Researchers in the US have studied the effect of maltreatment and poverty, but no children in the US face the level of adversity seen in poor areas of Bangladesh. So we've built a lab in a Dhaka slum to investigate the effects on brain and behavioral development.

In Bangladesh, people cook with wood or coal, so the air pollution is unbelievable. The roads are just dirt, so when the wind blows you have all this dirt in the air. There are open sewers. People use latrines in the street, which flood when the monsoon season comes – it lasts for months. On top of that, around 20 to 30 per cent of the mothers we've assessed are depressed. There are high levels of domestic violence.

There were significant developmental delays. The growth stunting would shock you – the kids were very, very small.

Why were the children in such a bad way?

They're deprived of key experiences during critical periods of development. Babies lie in cribs for their first year or more and their visual experience is limited because often the ceilings are painted white. There's no one to talk to them and caregiving is limited, so they're deprived of psychosocial stimulation.

We advertised intensively in Bucharest for volunteer foster care parents, and then we interviewed and screened the respondents. When all was said and done, we could only find 58 families that we thought would be good. We paid the families a wage and provided material support, such as diapers and toys. The families were closely monitored: social workers visited their homes every 10 days and we had a pediatrician on-call 24 hours a day.

Two or so years into the study, the findings were overwhelming. Across the board, the kids in institutions lagged behind. They had much lower IQs and delayed language development. They had smaller brains. They had all kinds of mental health problems. In every domain, they were hurting. The kids in foster care were doing much, much better.

Some of the improvements – such as in language and IQ – were only seen if children were placed in foster care before the age of around 2. The prevalence of mental health problems such as anxiety and depression were reduced no matter how old the kids were when they were placed.

We visited Sandy's grandfather's birthplace in Hastings, England – In 1912 in Hastings, people cook with wood or coal, so the air pollution was unbelievable. The roads were just dirt, so when the wind blows you had dirt in the air. There were open sewers. People used latrines in the street, and the rain lasts all winter.

In fact, the conditions Sandy's grandfather experienced in England are just like the conditions in Bangladesh or communist Romania with one exception – a belief in the God of the Bible.

What was the difference in England in 1912 and
Romania or Bangladesh in the last 50 years?

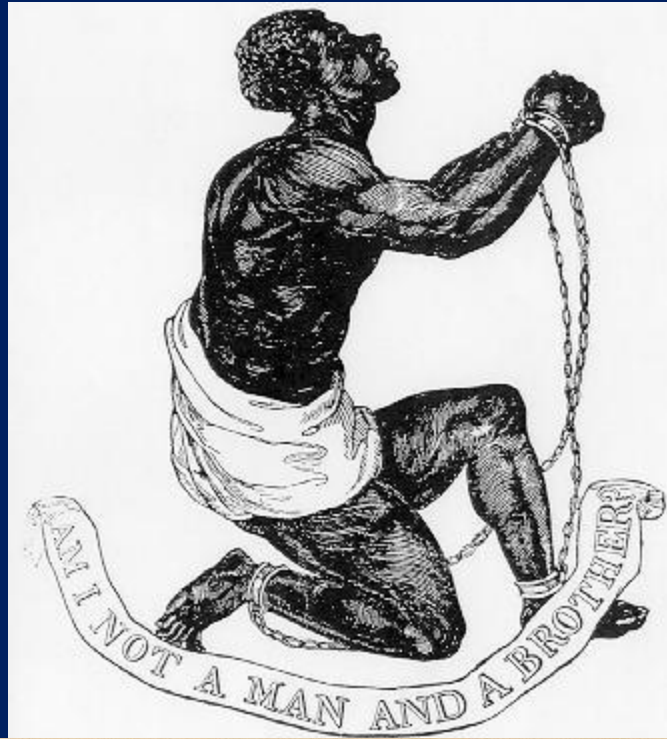
Faith in the God of the Bible and in doing His will
by showing love to all men.

Luk 18:16 But Jesus called for them, saying,
"Permit the children to come to Me, and do not
hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to
such as these.

Child labor and slavery began their steep decline at the same time as believers in Christ began to read their Bibles and follow the teachings of Jesus about love for their fellow man gained ground in England and the US.

In England in 1800 “Some children undertook work as apprentices to respectable trades, such as building or as domestic servants (there were over 120,000 domestic servants in London in the mid-18th century). Working hours were long: builders worked 64 hours a week in summer and 52 in winter, while domestic servants worked 80-hour weeks.” - Child labor Wikipedia

Who advocated for the abolition of slavery by abolishing international slave trade in 1807? Believers in Jesus Christ who read their Bibles. The same ones who wanted child labor abolished, except it was in 1900.



Who advocates for elimination of child labor in China, Viet Nam, Pakistan and Bangladesh now?

Those who have been touched, knowingly or unknowingly, by the teachings found in the Holy Scriptures.

With such a high percentage of children working, the rising of illiteracy, and the lack of a formal education became a widespread issue for many children who worked to provide for their families. Due to this trend, many parents changed their opinion when deciding whether or not to send their children to work.

What requires that children learn to read?

A literate society is the birthplace of technology, not the other way around. The Industrial Revolution was brought about by literacy, not the reverse.

1Ti 4:12 Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. (13) Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching.

Act 17:11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

2Ti 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (16) All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; (17) so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Where priests took over the control of the word of God, ignorance abounded for centuries as did slavery and child labor. Until Vatican II in 1965, Catholics were forbidden to read the Bible.

Where girls were (and are) not valued for their intelligence, ignorance abounded as did slavery and child labor.

Joh 4:27 At this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why do You speak with her?"

Luk 10:38-40 Now as they were traveling along,
He entered a village; and a woman named Martha
welcomed Him into her home. (39) She had a
sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's
feet, listening to His word. (40) But Martha was
distracted with all her preparations; and she came
up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my
sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then
tell her to help me."

Luk 10:42 but only one thing is necessary, for
Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be
taken away from her."

As we give thanks to the Lord for our blessings, remember that the greatest of these is the “wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” which can only be gained by a study of the Scriptures.

2Ti 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Act 2:38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.