

## **What does the Bible say to those who have responsibilities towards children?**

*Parents, and those who teach in the stead and under the command of parents as teacher (in loco parentis), have the duty to bring children to Jesus by teaching them His Word and teaching them to walk in His Word. At the very least, there is the duty not to teach that sinful living is somehow acceptable or a matter of personal choice. This leaves the children open and unprotected from temptation. When children ask the person teaching them for a fish (that which is true and leads to life-everlasting), we should not give them a serpent (that which is false and leads to eternal death instead). Jesus says that to lead children astray brings dreadful judgment upon the one through whom temptation comes. It brings judgment, because false teaching leads children away from life with the Lord Who made the heavens and the earth, and into the kingdom of Satan and the fires of hell. Jesus tells His people in the Old Testament that the choice to walk in His ways is a choice between life and death.*

*On the other hand, Jesus promises that when we receive a child and the responsibility of raising Him in the fear and love of the Lord, we receive Jesus! Children do not know how to walk by themselves. They will stumble and fall, they will need forgiveness and hand back up. But they need discipline and guidance that leads them towards what is good, beautiful and true. When we do not teach what is false, but set before them what is good, wholesome, and pure, we will also raise children who will be able to stand firm when the storms of life rage around them and not be washed away in the flood. Our teaching will be shown in the fruit produced in the lives of those we teach, in the lives that they lead and in their faith.*

**Deuteronomy 6:5-9** You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

**Deut 30:15-16** "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. <sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God<sup>Ⓜ</sup> that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules,<sup>Ⓜ</sup> then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

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

**Proverbs 22: 5-6** Thorns and snares are in the way of the crooked; whoever guards his soul will keep far from them. <sup>6</sup> Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

**Prov 1:7-9** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, <sup>9</sup> for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

**Matt 7: 9-11** Which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? <sup>11</sup> If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

**Matt 7:12** "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

**Matt 18:5-6** "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, <sup>6</sup> but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin,<sup>Ⓜ</sup> it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

**Matt 18: 7** "Woe to the world for temptations to sin!<sup>Ⓜ</sup> For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!

**Matt 18:10-14** "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.<sup>Ⓜ</sup> <sup>12</sup> What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? <sup>13</sup> And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. <sup>14</sup> So it is not the will of my<sup>Ⓜ</sup> Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

**Matt 19:13** Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, <sup>14</sup> but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." <sup>15</sup> And he laid his hands on them and went away.

**Acts 2:39** "the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." <sup>40</sup> And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."

**Luke 7:35** "wisdom is justified by all her children."

**Luke 6:47-48** Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: <sup>48</sup> he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.<sup>Ⓜ</sup>

**Luke 6:43-45** "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, <sup>44</sup> for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. <sup>45</sup> The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

### **What are the Bible's warnings about breaking the Sixth Commandment?**

*Like the waters that flow down from the mountains and nourish the earth, the wild animals and livestock, the grass and the crops in Psalm 104, so God makes His blessings flow through these channels and riverbeds in all of creation. The love of man and woman is one of these channels, bringing some of the highest blessings and gifts of God's love in the world. However, when the water breaks out of its banks, it flows with destructive force. It can destroy in an instant, or it can become a swamp of corruption where nothing wholesome can thrive. So it is when it comes to human sexuality. There a blessings to be had when we live in accord with God's Word. Outside of His ways are curses and death. Some of these come in this life, in heartache, destructive relationships, and disease. But if continually pursued, this sin leads to death and hell.*

**Deuteronomy 30:11-20** "For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. <sup>12</sup> It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' <sup>13</sup> Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' <sup>14</sup> But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

<sup>15</sup> "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. <sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God<sup>Ⓜ</sup> that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules,<sup>Ⓜ</sup> then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your

God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, <sup>20</sup> loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

**Prov 1:24-32** Because I have called and you refused to listen, have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded, <sup>25</sup> because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, <sup>26</sup> I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you, <sup>27</sup> when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. <sup>29</sup> Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, <sup>30</sup> would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, <sup>31</sup> therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices. <sup>32</sup> For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them;

**Proverbs 4:10-16** Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many. <sup>11</sup> I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness. <sup>12</sup> When you walk, your step will not be hampered, and if you run, you will not stumble. <sup>13</sup> Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life. <sup>14</sup> Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. <sup>15</sup> Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on. <sup>16</sup> For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong; they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble.

**Prov 4:24** Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you.

**Prov 5:22-23** The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin. <sup>23</sup> He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.

**Prov 6:20-24** My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching. <sup>21</sup> Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. <sup>22</sup> When you walk, they<sup>Ⓜ</sup> will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you. <sup>23</sup> For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life, <sup>24</sup> to preserve you from the evil woman,<sup>Ⓜ</sup> from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.<sup>Ⓜ</sup>

**Ephesians 5:1-17** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

<sup>3</sup> But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. <sup>4</sup> Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup> For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not become partners with them; <sup>8</sup> for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup> and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

<sup>15</sup> Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

**Matt 5:28** say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

**Matt 15:19-20** For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup> These are what defile a person.

**1 Cor 6:9-11** Or do you not know that the unrighteous<sup>Ⓜ</sup> will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,<sup>Ⓜ</sup> <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

**1 Cor 6:18** Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin<sup>Ⓜ</sup> a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup> for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

**Romans 1:18-32** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world,<sup>Ⓜ</sup> in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; <sup>27</sup> and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

<sup>28</sup> And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup> They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup> Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

**1 Thess 4:1-7** Finally, then, brothers,<sup>Ⓜ</sup> we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. <sup>2</sup> For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. <sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification:<sup>Ⓜ</sup> that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each one of you know how to control his own body<sup>Ⓜ</sup> in holiness and honor, <sup>5</sup> not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; <sup>6</sup> that no one transgress

and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. <sup>7</sup> For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. <sup>8</sup> Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

**Hebrews 13:4** Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

### **What are the blessings and encouragements God gives to those who believe, teach, and keep the Sixth Commandment?**

*Marriage is the foundation of human life together. It is the cradle of both church and state. God makes His blessings for all people begin in families. When we live according to God's Word, husbands and wives faithfully devoted to each other, parents diligently providing for their children's needs and education, children honoring serving and obeying their parents, and families loving their neighbors, this is a foundation for a flourishing community now, and a seedbed in which God's Word can take root and grow up to eternal life in heaven.*

**Proverbs 2** My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, <sup>2</sup> making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; <sup>3</sup> yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, <sup>4</sup> if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, <sup>5</sup> then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. <sup>6</sup> For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; <sup>7</sup> he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, <sup>8</sup> guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. <sup>9</sup> Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; <sup>10</sup> for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; <sup>11</sup> discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you, <sup>12</sup> delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech, <sup>13</sup> who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, <sup>14</sup> who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil, <sup>15</sup> men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways. <sup>16</sup> So you will be delivered from the forbidden<sup>Ⓜ</sup> woman, from the adulteress<sup>Ⓜ</sup> with her smooth words, <sup>17</sup> who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God; <sup>18</sup> for her house sinks down to death, and her paths to the departed;<sup>Ⓜ</sup> <sup>19</sup> none who go to her come back, nor do they regain the paths of life.

<sup>20</sup> So you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous. <sup>21</sup> For the upright will inhabit the land, and those with integrity will remain in it, <sup>22</sup> but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.

**Prov 4:20-27** My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. <sup>21</sup> Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. <sup>22</sup> For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their<sup>Ⓜ</sup> flesh. <sup>23</sup> Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. <sup>24</sup> Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you. <sup>25</sup> Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. <sup>26</sup> Ponder<sup>Ⓜ</sup> the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. <sup>27</sup> Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.

**Phil 4:8** Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

**Eph 4:29-32** Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom

you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

**Genesis 1:27-28, 31** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth..." And it was so. <sup>31</sup> And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

**Genesis 2:18, 21-25** Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for<sup>u</sup> him."

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made<sup>u</sup> into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."<sup>u</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

**Matt 19:4-6** "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, <sup>5</sup> and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

**Prov 5:19-21** rejoice in the wife of your youth, <sup>19a</sup> a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated<sup>u</sup> always in her love. <sup>20</sup> Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?<sup>u</sup> <sup>21</sup> For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders<sup>u</sup> all his paths.

### **Song of Solomon (*the whole book*)**

**Eph 5:22-33** Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.<sup>u</sup> <sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

**1 Peter 3:5-7** this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, <sup>6</sup> as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

<sup>7</sup> Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you<sup>Ⓜ</sup> of the grace of life

**Col 3:18-19** Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

**1 Cor 6:19-20** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup> for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

**Titus 2:11-15** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

<sup>15</sup> Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

**1 Thess 4:2-4** you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. <sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification<sup>Ⓜ</sup> that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each one of you know how to control his own body<sup>Ⓜ</sup> in holiness and honor

### **Appendix: Words from our Wedding Service**

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God and before His Church to witness the union of this man and this woman in holy matrimony. This is an honorable estate instituted and blessed by God in Paradise, before humanity's fall into sin.

In marriage we see a picture of the communion between Christ and His bride, the Church. Our Lord blessed and honored marriage with His presence and first miracle at Cana in Galilee. This estate is also commended to us by the apostle Paul as good and honorable. Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into inadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for the mutual companionship, help, and support that each person ought to receive from the other, both in prosperity and adversity. Marriage was also ordained so that man and woman may find delight in one another. Therefore, all persons who marry shall take a spouse in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust, for God has not called us to impurity but in holiness. God also established marriage for the procreation of children who are to be brought up in the fear and instruction of the Lord so that they may offer Him their praise. **Lutheran Service Book, page 275**

*All teaching of children in the matters of the Sixth Commandment and human sexuality should be to lead them to this moment. That a young man and young woman can stand together before family and friends, God and the church, without shame and celebrate that God has brought them together.*



**Adam and Eve at the Foot of the Cross, Claude Mellan, 1647. Metropolitan Museum, New York.**

The text on the banner is in Latin, and it reads "For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility. Eph 2:14" This is our hope as men and women, as fathers and mothers, grandparents, children, Christians, neighbors, citizens.