

Change is not always easy, but it's necessary

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 it or "bring it to pass." If we are parenting outside of his guidelines, our parenting will not work. If we are not teaching God's word to our children as we "lay down the law" to them, that "law" will not work. If we are acting out God's word at church and not at home, our parenting will

not be effective.
 When I was a child, I did not "know" God for myself, but I had a respect for Him and the values of the Bible which were planted in me by my grandparents. Today, our societal structure, values and philosophies are extremely different from those of even 20-30 years ago. Our children

are interacting on a day-to-day basis with youth who neither know, nor respected God. It is the norm rather than the exception, that many have never attended a church service of any kind.
 As parents, it is necessary that we be willing to change as the Holy Spirit directs us to. We can not afford to fear,

fight nor avoid "God change." Why not? Because our children's eternal lives are at stake. In Mark 8:36, the question is asked by Jesus, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?" Today, I believe Jesus is asking parents in the Body of Christ what would it profit us to make it to the top

in our careers, live in the best neighborhoods, drive the best cars and SUVs; dress our kids in the finest name-brand clothes, adorn their feet in the most popular footwear, make sure they are in the best school clubs and athletic teams or graduate with honors in their class. Yet, because we did do our part to train

them in the word of God, to live a life truly dedicated to God before them, and love them not to death, but to life in hell, they lift up their eyes.
WANDA M. PENDERGRASS
 worships at Chappell Memorial Baptist Church, where she is a member of the Christian Education Council and Youth Ministry leader.

Catholic bishops urging vote on gay marriage

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
BOSTON — Religious groups on both sides of the same-sex marriage debate are gearing up for the Legislature's scheduled vote next month whether to put a proposed constitutional amendment banning gay marriage on the 2008 ballot.

The state's four Roman Catholic bishops, saying they are concerned that a walkout by lawmakers could prevent the vote on Nov. 9, are urging Catholics to go to the Statehouse that day to voice their support for the proposed ban, The Boston Globe reported.

The letter asks Catholics to "pray for success on this critical vote."

Supporters of gay marriage rights have printed thousands of copies of a brochure "Why We Don't Vote on Civil Rights," to be distributed in places of worship, and also are preparing newspaper ads signed by a group of lay Catholics who say Boston's Cardinal Sean O'Malley does

n't speak for them on the issue, the newspaper reported.

Twenty-five percent of legislators need to vote "yes" on the amendment in two consecutive sessions to get the question on the ballot.

Some gay marriage supporters have considered walking out of the session in which the Legislature will sit as a Constitutional Convention to derail the proposal, the Globe reported.

Same-sex marriage has been legal in the state since 2004. Opponents gathered 170,000 petition signatures to bring the amendment, which would define marriage as "the union of one man and one woman," before the Legislature.

Religious organizations across the state, and their members, can be found on both sides of the issue, and there is disagreement even within religious communities.

Many evangelical and black

churches join the Catholic Church in supporting the amendment. One campaign is chaired by the Rev. Roberto Miranda of Congregation Leon de Juda, a large, predominantly Hispanic Baptist church in Boston.

The letter approved by O'Malley as well as Bishops George Coleman of Fall River, Timothy McDonnell of Springfield and Robert McManus of Worcester, is tailored to each parish and gives the name of lawmakers representing the address where the parish is headquartered. Priests were asked to include it in parish bulletins last weekend and next, the newspaper said.

On Saturday, delegates at the convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts overwhelmingly urged lawmakers to defeat the amendment. Support for gay marriage rights also has come from the United Church of Christ, the Unitarian Universalist Association, and others,

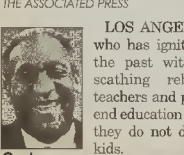
including Reform and Reconstructionist Jewish movements.

The executive director of the multid denominational

Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry, Rabbi Devon A. Lerner, said those trying to ban gay marriage from a religious perspective

are "trying to impose their beliefs on the rest of us, who don't share them."

Cosby criticizes parents, teachers for not doing enough for kids



Cosby

LOS ANGELES— Bill Cosby, who has ignited controversy in the past with his sometimes scathing rebukes, criticized teachers and parents at a weekend education conference, saying they do not do enough to help kids.

Cosby spoke Saturday at a

forum called "Education Is a Civil Right." Hundreds of Los Angeles-area parents, teachers and students attended the event at Maranatha Community Church.

Cosby, 69, was critical of black parents, saying they do not involve themselves enough in their children's education and don't know what their children are doing.

Please see **COSBY/8B**

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 The Mystery Of The Gospel - Part III (Last Part)
 J.M. Little, Teacher

When the Holy Spirit gave me that effectual call (Rom. 8:30) that early noon, revealing to me that I never believed in Christ, I looked around me and made this statement: "No one around me is saved. And I have never been to the funeral of a saved person." That was part of the judgment the Lord was showing me. You religious professors do not understand that. It is because the mystery of the gospel is hidden from you. And you sit there and wonder: "How can Brother Little and Brother So and So say all these people are lost? Bro. Little doesn't know anybody's heart!" Will you let me whisper a secret to you? Every born-again believer knows the heart of the other fellow because the Holy Spirit has given that believer Divine knowledge. I have some inside information you don't have, Bud. And you can sit there and wonder, and wonder, and wonder your way to hell. I can talk to a man for just a few minutes and know whether or not he is saved. "How in the world can you do that?", the professor asks. "All thy people shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy people." (Isa. 54:13) All God's children are taught of the Lord. You church members don't see that. All you have is intellectual knowledge. You, my dear preacher, Bible teacher, and evangelist, have never been taught of the Lord. You make much of the many professions you got out there on the west coast! Did those sinners get to Christ? Did they? I know, you'll answer back that that is between them and the Lord. See, you don't know, my evangelist friend, that a sinner has to be awakened to his lost, ruined, guilty, hell-born, hell-bent, hell-bound and hell-deserving condition before he can be brought to Christ by the Holy Spirit. And your altar call never brings sinners to Christ, evangelist! Now, you can say you disagree with me all you want to. One minute after death, you will not disagree with me. Now you can write that down!

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