

The World in Which We Live

At 7:34 PM, Tuesday, our third grandchild was born into this world. I saw this innocent little girl within minutes of her birth. She was beautiful, as is all of God's creation. Annabelle had dark hair and long fingers. Like newborns she was content and slept a lot. But she had made her appearance out in the world.

Just like any grandparent, we want the best for this little girl. We naturally start thinking of our dreams for her life. We want her to grow up to be a beautiful young lady, kind, considerate and full of love. This is what God wants for her.

After spending many hours at the hospital it was time to head home. That's when reality came into play. Radio and television news focus on ugly name calling between political candidates. The newspaper talks about another local murder, and national crisis after crisis. Wildfires continue to threaten homes in California and flooding has done significant damage in Louisiana. Instead of thinking of pleasant memories and uniqueness of cities across the nation,



one mention of a municipality's name and we immediately think of a recent crisis. The world in which we live is clearly in chaos. Although there are a few natural disasters, most of the news is about broken relationships and people exhibiting poor choices.

This isn't what God wants for us, but it is what we have done to His creation. This world is in need of the Savior yet the current trend is to put down people of faith. God wants a world of peace with people acting out of love, not what we are experiencing.

So, this is the world our granddaughter will live in. We can't change the entire world, but we can provide a loving environment Annabelle's world. We can teach her the values that will help her separate right from wrong, good from evil, and to make good choices. We can make life beautiful for this beautiful little girl. Here are some examples of what we can do:

- We can bring up children surrounded by love, respect for everyone and a caring attitude towards others. *Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor (1 Peter 2:17).*
- We can be an active part of their lives – being a good example for her to follow. *In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness (Titus 2:7).*
- While we can't isolate our children and grandchildren from what our world has become, we can teach them how to avoid the mistakes people without faith have made. *Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it (Proverbs 22:6).*
- We can teach them right from wrong, so that they can make the correct choices in their lives. *All your children will be taught by the LORD, and great will be their peace (Isaiah 54:13).*
- We can encourage them to make friends with other people of faith, so they will be surrounded by people with similar values. *Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character" (1 Corinthians 15:33).*

- We can show them unconditional love, so they will grow up knowing they are children of God, and that they are loved even when they make mistakes. *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? (Romans 8:35).*
- We can teach them to love others. *The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. 'There is no commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:31).*
- We can teach them to be a follower of Jesus – teaching them to pray, teaching the lessons of the Bible, and how to apply the Bible to their lives. *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6).*
- We can pray that God will watch over our little ones. *May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace (Numbers 6:24-26).*



We can't make the world perfect for our children, but we can do our best to prepare our children and grandchildren for the world in which they grow up. We can provide a wonderful life for our children. This is what God wants us to do, and He will bless our efforts.

Question: In what ways can you prepare your children and grandchildren to be able to live a Godly, beautiful life in spite of the chaos of this world?

Prayer: Heavenly Father. We do not live in a perfect world, but we thankfully live with your perfect love. We pray that we can share that love and compassion with others. Amen.