

## FOUNDATIONS

### Little Imitators and Ambassadors

The face of evil just doesn't seem to change. It surrounds us. Greed, violence, adultery, bloodshed, extortion, hatred, dishonesty, envy, etc.—the list goes on and on, day after day.



One thing has changed. We've changed. Our hearts have changed. More properly stated our hearts have been changed by the Spirit's power. Because of our faith in Jesus, you and I are different from the rest of the unbelieving world. So are our children. The gospel has changed us. This is not an arrogant boasting about our own goodness. It is an echo of God's own declaration that we have been made righteous in the blood of his own Son. We think, talk, and behave in ways that set us apart from the way unbelievers think, talk, and act. You and I, and our children, are learning to imitate Jesus. This profound change-of-heart is manifested in the way we treat the people around us. We love them. At full spiritual maturity, we love others even more than we love ourselves. We love even our enemies. We want our children to follow the same pattern as they interact with the people around them.

Christians are God's ambassadors to a world still living in the darkness of unbelief. Jesus said unbelievers would know we are his disciples *if we love one another*. In a world that can hardly be described as *loving*, God's people are his boots on the ground. Jesus wants our children to follow in his footsteps. He wants them to become the cup that carries the cool water of the gospel to the folks of their own generation who are parched and dying from spiritual thirst.

When asked how they will choose a school for their children, a surprising number of parents say, "I'm looking for a school where my child will learn to make a real contribution to his or her community." *Foundations* helps parents understand *why* and *how* Christian education prepares young people to become *salt* and *light* to a world that desperately needs a real change. *Foundations* explains that when God gives the gift of life, he also gives purpose to that life.

The apostle John wrote, "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard . . . to make our joy complete" (1 John 1:3, 4). Our children will experience the same complete joy when they learn what role God has chosen for them as workers in his *Great Co-mission*. WELS schools teach children to sow the seeds of faith. They learn early that God has a plan for using them to accomplish his ends. They quickly come to understand that no matter what occupation they choose in life, they have a higher calling into a lifetime vocation as Jesus' ambassadors to a world still living in the darkness of sin.

You and I do not always get to see the results of our planting efforts. Neither will our children. We have no control over the success of the harvest. Nor will they. We are here to plant. All of us. Our children are part of the Spirit's on-going harvest of their own generation. Those fields are ripening as we speak; the time for them to go to work in God's harvest is already here. It is up to us to prepare them for the work that God has called them to do.

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