

PARENTS DECIDE WHO THEIR CHILDREN BECOME

While having breakfast in a hotel in Davao, I overheard a group of ladies talk about how difficult it is to manage the behavior of children of this generation. I couldn't agree more, but then, a question suddenly came to my mind. "Who made these children who they are today? Who taught this generation to be what they have become?"

The Bible tells us that everything God created is good; therefore, all children were born good. But they can turn out to become bad if we do not raise them well. So how did they become so difficult to manage?

I have learned that children are responders. They respond to the things we expose them to. Who they are today is the sum total of their experience, their education, circumstances, and our example. Most parents would say that they were not the ones who taught their children everything they know, especially the bad habits they have acquired. While this may be true, we parents were the ones who allowed them to be influenced by the world. Often, this happens by default. Since most of us are so busy we do not have time to guide them anymore, so we let the TV and Internet mold them.

This generation is what it is because the generations that came before them. In farming we say, "There are no unproductive farms, only unproductive farmers." In the same way I believe that there are no bad children, only bad parenting.

So when we complain about them, we basically complain about the way we have raised them. But should we just accept what this generation has become? On the contrary, I believe we must learn from our mistake and try to help this generation find their way again. In addition, we need to also make sure that the generation that follows them will become better.

Even at this point, I would discuss with my children Denise and Daniel what we should do to raise my future apo(s) in a better way. Denise would often object and say, "Papa! Before we can even talk about that, we better look for a husband first." So sabi ko sa kanya, "If God has given you an amazing gift in the arts, can give you an amazing husband as well." I am hoping we can improve the way we raise our children so that my future apo(s) can be a blessing to the world and not a burden.

I believe it is our responsibility to help the children of this generation. We can do this, by being vigilant in what we teach them and by being careful in the examples we show them. May all your children grow to be a blessing to the world and not be a burden to anyone.