

What Are the Consequences?

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Writing is not something I care to do. Writing this article is a painful task for me. I received a notice informing me that my superintendent had volunteered my name for the November article. I have thought and thought about what I should write. Brandy has sent me reminders which have made me realize that my deadline is almost here. I feel like a student who has an assignment due and who doesn't know what to do. Usually a person's first thought is, "What are the consequences". Well, I won't miss out on my grade and I won't get a detention. I must admit those were not my first thoughts; however, I do want to dwell on that theme. So what ARE the consequences? Consequences-what are they? Do we ever think about them? Everything we do in life has consequences. Do we think about what we are doing? Do we think of the results? "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Galatians 6:7) We tend to think of that in the broad sense or rather as true for big things. What about little things? Do they count? Are the students impacted by my activities outside the classroom? We tend to take a narrow view. We look at immediate consequences and results but we don't often look at the big picture. Sometimes we become so overwhelmed with the things at hand that we forget that there is a bigger scheme of things. We eat anything because we are so hungry. We watch a television programme just to relax without thinking of how this would impact our minds. We say things without thinking, not realizing the effects of our words. As teachers, our words have a greater impact than if we were just another person.

We have charts and rewards to help the children achieve in their schoolwork or to control their behaviour. Most children respond positively to them, but some get discouraged because they are never good enough. How do we deal with that? Do we just write that one off as uncooperative and one who will never be a success or do we spend more time with him and with God for him?

What is of most worth? Our primary task is to prepare children for citizenship for God's kingdom. Secondly, we are to prepare them for citizenship for this world. Sometimes we don't have time to get everything done that we feel needs to be done. We prioritize our tasks. This also happens to our students on occasion. We want them to have a relationship with God - to take personal devotional time, but we give them so much schoolwork that they feel the thing that has the least consequence is skip devotions. Do we do that too? I had a child in grade three who had gotten into some kind of trouble -I don't remember now what it was- I asked him if he had asked Jesus to be with him that day. He said, "I didn't have time because I had to do my homework." I asked him what would happen if he didn't do his homework. He replied, "I'd get in trouble." I then asked him what would happen if he forgot about God. I asked him whether getting in trouble with me or losing out on eternal life was more important. Do you get the picture? We as teachers need to make sure that we put Jesus first in our lives and teach the children who come to us that the most important thing in life is to seek Jesus. The other things that need to be done will be done if we put Jesus first. He will strengthen and enable us to do the things that He wants us to do. If we are faithful and diligent in cultivating our relationship with God we will also be faithful and diligent in whatever else we must do. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."(Matthew 6:33) I have to keep reminding myself of the things that are most worthy. I have to remember to look at the big picture. Jesus is coming soon and it is even of more importance now than it has been to put Jesus first in our fast paced society. Remember that life without Jesus has no meaning or value. Take time to be with Jesus.

Resources:

- The Holy Bible, The Authorized (King James) Version, National Bible Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1966