

The Greater Responsibility

A recent article spoke of giving support to those trying to end violence in our communities. The writer mentioned praise for black leaders; what about giving credit to all city leaders who take a stand?

Murder is a crime against humanity, but it is not the only form of violence in the city. Many outstanding leaders are searching for solutions. The writer also stated that “the homes, the schools and the churches must accept their responsibility.” Who has the greater responsibility?

Cordry and Wilson (2004) conducted a study: the data showed that by graduation from high school, parents spent 97,370 hours with their children; the schools, 16,380 hours. The ratio: parents 76%; schools 24%. What does this mean?

It’s quite simple: parents have three times the influence over the child as do the schools. This influence includes the development of the child from birth to graduation in such areas as a viable work ethic, character, Truths of the Scriptures, right from wrong, and education.

The first line of defense in this issue is in the home. Our children may not grow up to model our teachings; without positive parental involvement, our children will model whatever they learn during their developmental years. Schools teach reading and writing; without practice at home, does this excuse the parent for the poor basic skills or a lack of discipline of the child? I think not.

Why aren’t parents out in full-force alongside our leaders in finding solutions? There is a truth at work: it’s called cyclic-redundancy. Give someone a fish and they won’t learn the value and skill of fishing; teach them to fish, and they learn how to care for themselves and others. Until the cycle of violence is broken, we are treating the disease, not the underlying problem.

K. Edward Scott