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'Big Boss' Days Are  
Doomed Says David Mace

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Father used to be the "big boss" in the family, with supreme authority over his wife and children, but his days as a "big boss" are doomed.

A world-known lecturer and professor in family guidance described the trend away from father's role as family patriarch at the Conference on Counseling and Guidance sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here.

Almost 100 Baptist leaders in the counseling field were present.

David R. Mace, professor of human relations at Drew University, Madison, N. J., said that the world today is going through the second great "cultural mutation or change" in its history. This is the change to the "democratic family" pattern.

This mutation, according to Mace, began 150 years ago in England with the "industrial revolution." It is still under way. "Prior to this time," he said, "family life followed a rigid patriarchal pattern.

"The strength of the patriarchal pattern was its changelessness. Authority and domination on one hand were balanced against submission and obedience on the other," Mace continued. "The husband dominated his wife. The senior family dominated the junior family. Parental authority required submissiveness of children.

"Under the impact of the industrial revolution and urbanization, this pattern broke down because it was not flexible," the counselor said. "Disintegration of the patriarchal family was greatest where the growth of cities and the industrial revolution were the greatest."

Mace said that more than half the marriages in the world still are arranged by parents of the couple, following the patriarchal pattern. Even though there is such a prevalence of the old pattern today, it "has no future" and will be replaced, Mace said.

What has emerged as a successor to the patriarchal family pattern, he said, "is the democratic family." Three words mark its character---freedom, equality, and fulfillment.

"The democratic family pattern leaves freedom to choose a mate. The democratic family pattern also brings equality between husband and wife and equality of parent and child. Where personal happiness in marriage was only incidental in the father-dominated family pattern, today marriage and the family are thought of in terms of personal happiness and fulfillment," he said.

The democratic family pattern has brought its problems to modern family life, making the professional role of the family counselor important. "Counseling services are needed to help husband and wife meet the problems resulting from equality of man and wife and parent and child," Mace reported.

"We have to let children grow up in a democratic home if we are going to turn them loose in a democratic world," he added. Mace declared that it "takes more time and trouble to follow the democratic pattern."

The role of the family counselor is to "teach people what is happening to family life because of the change from patriarchal to democratic family life, and to help them understand why things are the way they are," Mace said.

"The high divorce rate is one of the prices we are paying for our freedom, but it is a needless price," he said. "Young people have freedom to choose a mate without a clear grasp of how to choose a mate."

Theodore Adams Speaks  
On The Christian Home

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A Christian home is the best preparation for a child to meet the crises of life, the president of the Baptist World Alliance told almost 100 Baptist leaders in family counseling here.

Theodore F. Adams, pastor of First Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., told the Conference on Counseling and Guidance sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board that "parents need to help their children sense the reality of always being in God's hand."

There are seven crises in life that everyone must face, Adams continued. They are physical birth, spiritual birth, choosing a life work, choosing a life partner, temptations of life, sorrows and disappointments, and death.

"When a child is born, he is not given a choice of his race, nationality, culture, name, or even his religion to a large measure. It is the responsibility of his parents to see that he is wanted, loved, and given a feeling of security but reared dependently," continued Adams.

"There is no place like a Christian home for rearing children to face the world we live in."

A child must make his own decision about his spiritual birth but, said Adams, he can be taught and led to make Jesus the master of his life.

"I believe every man's life is a plan of God," said Adams, and that "his life work is God-given. What we do seven days a week is very valuable in God's sight.

"Parents need to find God's plan for their lives and then lead their children to feel that God has made them for a purpose. Home is the place to start," he continued.

One of the greatest steps in the life of any young person is the choice of a life partner, according to Adams. Parents and children pay a great price for a wrong decision.

There are four levels of love---physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual---and all need to be considered when choosing a life partner, Adams continued.

Many of us would find ourselves inadequate to face the temptations of life if we had not received guidance from Christian parents, Adams said. Our Christian teachings "give us something to rely on" in time of temptation.

Sorrow and disappointments are a part of life but "adequate spiritual resources come out of a Christian home" to help us meet them, Adams continued.

When death comes, either personally or to others, the Christian knows who holds the future, Adams said. "A Christian home helps us face life's crises for we know our times are in his hands."

Church And Home Can  
Conflict Says Sullivan

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Although both the church and the home are institutions created by God and both are devoted to noble purposes, it's possible for a conflict to occur between the church and home.

This was pointed out to Southern Baptist family counselors during their three-day meeting under sponsorship of the Baptist Sunday School Board here.

James L. Sullivan, the board's executive secretary, said that "it's hard for some people to see that there could conceivably be any conflict" between the church and the home.

Sullivan defined areas in which the church can help the family, then described areas in which the church can hinder home life. He posed the question, "How can the church and the family serve side-by-side in a complimentary way rather than in a way to cause conflicts or tensions?"

He referred to a case in which a marriage difficulty occurred because the husband belonged to one Baptist church and the wife to a sister Baptist church in the same city. Each church was demanding that the partner keep the present church affiliation. The problem was aggravated by the coming of children in the home and the conflict over which Baptist church the children should attend.

According to Sullivan, the church can help the family in eight ways:

- 1--It can build a healthy attitude of church members toward the home.
- 2--It can emphasize the fact that marriage is in the plan of God.
- 3--It can introduce Christian boys to Christian girls.
- 4--"The successful preacher in the pulpit is one who is a successful counselor to members when home problems arise."
- 5--The church needs not only to help each member of a family be a Christian but to help the home as a unit to be a Christian home.
- 6--It can plan its programs so that members of a family can worship, study, work, and pray together.
- 7--It can make the family aware of community responsibilities.
- 8--It can place in positions of church leadership those persons who have the "healthiest family life imaginable."

On the other hand, Sullivan said the church can hinder the home if it:

- 1--Demands too much time of parents in church work.
- 2--Is careless in planning a church calendar, causing separation of the family. In church affairs there should be a "family night."
- 3--Fails to emphasize the importance of teaching children at home their Christian responsibilities.
- 4--Attempts to be the center of all activities of the family.
- 5--Doesn't give the proper supervision when the church plans something inter-related to home activities.

Sullivan said that such a Conference on Counseling and Guidance could help provide a way to relate the church and the home, relieving tensions and conflicts between the two.