



Everything above this "sin" line is reaching to God and pertaining to holiness, righteousness and purity. Everything below this "sin" line is sin and leads to death, unholiness, unrighteousness and impurity.

Figure 1

remember it when they are old. However, if we diligently teach our children the commandments, statutes and judgments of God and to love the Lord their God with all their heart, with all their soul and with all their strength as they sit in the house, walk by the way, lie down, and when they rise up.....then when they are old they will know that God's Word is for all areas of life and for all of the time. It is under this scenario that the Scripture is fulfilled: *our descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.*

Ezekiel 44:6 says God gave the charge of the holy things to the Priests, not to the uncircumcised. Are we keeping the charge of the holy things God has given into our care — our children — or have we handed them over to the uncircumcised? *We* need to be training our own children up in the way they should go; **we** believers and not the uncircumcised unbelievers all around us: then when they are old they will not depart from it.

What is Holiness, Righteousness and Purity?

The Bible has much to say on this. Here are some practical things to help us in training our children so that when they are young adults they will be holding to the truths and living holy, righteous and pure lives.

Look at Figure 1 above. We have an illustration with a line for sin and a line reaching up to God. The problem with us today is that we continually try to see how close we can live to this line of sin instead of reaching out into the regions where God wants us, where there is no law against godly things (Galatians 5:23). In fact some of us are standing *on* the line so we sometimes have trouble seeing the difference between right & wrong, good & bad, wise & unwise. And sadly there are many who live below the line and never give it a second thought. The saddest thing of all is that there are many Chris-

tians living below the line. Josh McDowell did a survey of youth in 1987 and found that 43% of evangelical youth in youth groups were sexually active by the age of 18, and on top of that, 20-30% more were into petting. One out of every 6 abortions are performed on Christian young people from evangelical Churches. These young adults are living below the line and give us much reason to be concerned.

Every day our children are exposed to information that they can't handle emotionally, morally or spiritually. This comes from school, TV, videos, youth groups, peers when not supervised and many other things. Today's society has a worldview which says everyone should have access to all the ideas going, then decide for themselves how to deal with them. It is just like in Judges 21:25: *In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.* We mustn't leave our children to work out their worldview for themselves. Proverbs 14:12 says, *There is a way that seems*