How Big Problems Are Raised
1 Sam. 3:11-14

Introduction:

A. Eli, a good man, raised some big problems for Israel — his children. (cf. 1 Sam. 2:12,17,22-25)
   1. Was successful with Samuel.
   2. Was failure with own sons.
   3. Was unable to restrain his sons.
B. Many good Christians raise big problems for the church and society in general.
   1. Sometimes in spite of good training — exception rather than rule.
   2. More often because of parental irresponsibility.
   3. Need to be concerned with problems among our young people.
      a. Attitude problems (spoiled).
      b. Authority problems: at home, school, community and church.
      c. Activity problems: Immorality, worldliness, etc.
C. Many good Christians are unwittingly sowing the seeds that produce problems:

Discussion:

I. Neglect.
   A. Of Spiritual training. (2 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 6:4).
   B. Of proper discipline. (1 Sam. 3:13) — Firm, fair, consistent.
      1. A listening ear.
      2. A time for real communion.
II. Proxy-parenting.
   A. Often turn them over to doting grandparents.
   B. Often expect church to spiritually train them.
   C. Often expect school to train them: socially, emotionally and intellectually.
   D. All of these can be valuable AIDS, but only as extension of parental responsibility.
   E. No one can replace the parents. (cf. Eph. 6:4)
III. Over-Emphasis.
   A. On material success. (Cf. Mk. 8:36-37) — Higher purpose for working than to get rich.
   B. On Secular education. (cf. 1 Cor. 1:26) — Making it an end of itself — pride.
   C. On Recreation skills. (1 Tim. 4:8) – Worse to strike out at bat than at church.
   D. On Social acceptance — anything to “fit-in”.
IV. Over-Reaction.
   A. To mistreatment of our children (cf. Mt. 5:11,12) — need learn to suffer wrong.
   B. To outside correction — By school, church, police, friends.
   C. To child's misbehavior (Col. 3:21) — Correct, not avenge.
V. Provocation.
   A. To anger by harsh and unreasonable punishment. (cf. Eph. 6:4)
   B. To resentment by favoritism. (cf. Jacob toward Joseph).
      1. Unfair and unfavorable comparisons.
      2. Constant comparisons of any kind.
VI. Excuse-making.
   A. For child's misconduct — Always tell him and others that it was not his fault.
   B. For own failures — Constantly let him her you blaming others for your problems.
   C. For seriousness of sin — Tell him sin is not so bad, won't feel guilty enough to repent.
VII. Surrender.
   A. Parental authority - Have inherent right to direct because you are parent.
B. To whim of immaturity — Know it is wrong, but child wants to do it so bad.
C. Of right to question. (cf. 1 Kings 1:5,6) — Parents afraid to question children about conduct and activities.
D. Of supervision of activities — Children get parents to thinking must not interfere, must have unlimited trust.

VIII. Ignoring.
A. Weaknesses — want to think have strongest and best children.
B. Problems — think all problems will go away once they pass "this stage"
C. Warnings — Think others (preacher, teachers, friends, etc) are crying "wolf".

Conclusion:
A. Will you raise asset or problem? — If child responds to raising you are giving?