

Life Without the Blessing - Without the Blessing, Children Can Become:

The Seekers

Seekers are people who are always searching for intimacy but are seldom able to tolerate it. These are the people who feel tremendous fulfillment in the thrill of courtship but may have difficulty sustaining a relationship of any kind, including marriage. Never sure of how acceptance feels, they are never satisfied with wearing it too long. They may even struggle with believing in God's unchanging love for them because of the lack of permanence in the blessing in their early lives.

The Shattered

These are people whose lives are deeply troubled over the loss of their parents' love and acceptance. Fear, anxiety, depression and emotional withdrawal can often be traced to missing out on the family blessing. This unhappy road can even lead a person to the terrifying cliffs of suicide.

The Smotherers

Like 2,000-pound sponges, these people react to missing their parents' blessing by sucking every bit of life and energy from a spouse, child, friend or entire congregation. They are so emotionally empty that they drain those around them of the desire to help or even listen. Unfortunately, the smotherers understand only that they are being rejected. Deeply hurt once again, they never realize that they have brought this pain upon themselves. They end up pushing away the very people they need so desperately.

The Angry

As long as people are angry with each other, they are emotionally chained together. Many adults remain tightly linked to their parents because they are still furious over missing the blessing. They have never forgiven or forgotten. As a result, the rattle and chafing of emotional chains distract them from intimacy in other relationships, and the weight of the iron links keep them from moving forward in life.

The Detached

An old proverb says, "Once burned, twice shy." Some children who have missed the blessing use this motto. Having lost the blessing from an important person in their lives, they spend a lifetime protecting themselves from its ever happening again. Keeping a spouse, children or a close friend at arm's length, they protect themselves all right – at the price of inviting loneliness to take up residence in their lives.

The Driven

In this category, line up extreme perfectionists, workaholics, notoriously picky house cleaners and generally demanding people who go after getting their blessing the old-fashioned way: They try to earn it. The thwarted need for affirmation and acceptance keeps these driven people striving after a sense of "accomplishment" in an illusory attempt to gain love and acceptance.

The Deluded

Like their driven counterparts, these people throw their time, energy and material resources into the pursuit of anything they hope will fill that sense of emptiness inside. Instead of focusing on achievement, they look for social status, popularity, attention and plenty of "toys." They never quite understand that the blessing is a gift that cannot be bought. Only counterfeit blessings are for sale – and they never last. They are constantly trading in one fake blessing for another.

The Seduced

Many people who have missed out on their parents' blessing look to fill their relationship needs in all the wrong places. Unmet needs for love and acceptance can tempt a person to sexual immorality, trying to meet legitimate needs in an illegitimate way. Substance abuse and other compulsive behavior can also fall into this category. A drink, a pill or a behavior is used to cover up the hurt from empty relationships in the past or present, and an addiction can easily result.

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