

The Parent's Lounge

What shall I do?

For every legitimate question, there's a legitimate answer. Today, parents are faced with some serious problems. In fact, there seems to be more problems than there are solutions. In my home town of Charlotte, N.C., 2700 illegal guns were confiscated off the streets last year - many from children. Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Chief Operating Officer Hugh Hattabaugh said last school year officials seized 12 guns at schools. On a good note, only (1) this year. What shall we do?

Fourteen year old Ashante Mayfield was killed this year after a group of young women got into an argument on a West Charlotte street. At least four more children have lost their lives this year due to gun violence. What shall we do?

Children kill children because they don't think about the consequences of their actions. Their principles and morals are inverted. In their eyes: *right is wrong and wrong is right*. When they are wronged, they believe in taking matters in their own hands. In the streets, they are taught that you don't call the police for anything; you enforce your own justice *by any means necessary*. So they pick up guns, instead of picking up the phone and calling local law enforcement. What shall we do?

First, we need to teach children to do away with the street mentality of *ride or die*, and educate them on the consequences of being *down for whatever* by possessing or using a firearm - i.e., stiff mandatory minimum sentences, loss of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The decision to take the life of another is usually one made emotionally instead of intellectually. The most important thing parents can do is teach their children to think before they act. And help them realize that one bad decision can cost them their life.

For the Love of the Streets is a novel I wrote to help the misguided see themselves as the world sees them: as *gangsters and thugs*. The text punctuates the biblical scripture that says, "*You will reap what you sow*." I strongly encourage all parents that don't know what to do to save their children, to give them *For the Love of the Streets* as a Christmas gift. In doing so, you will be showing your children their futures inside of penitentiaries and caskets - if they continue to be disobedient by refusing to abide by your rules and the laws of the land.

What shall you do?

by: Cedric Dean, Author of *How To Stop Your Children From Going To Prison*

For more info on Cedric Dean visit: www.cedricdean.com