

# **The Facts of Life & Parenting: PARENTS AND PROPHETS (Part II)**

Joshua 24:14-28

## **I. MAN MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD; CHILDREN MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD**

(Gen.1:26,27; 5:1; 9:6; 1 Cor.11:7; Eph.4:24; Col.3:10; James 3:9; cf. Rom.8:29; 12:2; 2 Cor.3:18; 4:4; Col.1:15)

A. Parents and children are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26,27 with Genesis 5:1-3).

B. Being made in God's image means that:

1. in some way we "look like God."
2. human beings are different from animals.
3. we were created in "knowledge, righteousness, and holiness" (Col. 3:10, Eph. 4:24; Q.10 of the Shorter Catechism)

C. Parents are to image God by being prophets in their homes. Parents are to declare God's will and set boundaries for their children based on the unchanging Bible.

1. The way you speak to your children must reflect the fact that you and they are made in the image of God (**Ephesians 4:29; James 3:8-10**).
2. To curse your children is to curse the God Who made them in His own image
3. A rebuke or a warning can be spoken in love if the ultimate purpose of it is to restore the child (Prov.3:7,11; 12:24; 13:18; 14:23; 16:18).

D. Children have the responsibility of listening and obeying what their parents tell them. They are to listen to their parent's word as if it came from the Lord (Ex.20:12; Prov.1:8; 2:1,2; 3:1; 4:1,2,10; Eph.6:4).

## **II. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT PARENTS MUST TRAIN THEIR CHILDREN IN THE INSTRUCTION OF THE LORD**

(Genesis 18:19; Deuteronomy 6:6,7; Joshua 24:15; 1 Chronicles 28:9; Psalm 78:3-7; Proverbs 1:8; 6:20; Eph.6:4; 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15)

## **III. PARENTS HAVE THE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO SET BOUNDARIES FOR THEIR CHILDREN**

A. Parents have no right to redefine the boundaries that God has set (Genesis 3:1-6).

B. Parents don't have the authority to reinterpret God's Law. As prophets, parents are not to be judicial activists. Their obligation is not to reinterpret or rewrite God's constitution. Rather, their responsibility is to faithfully declare and uphold God's Word in the home.

(OVER **Z**)

#### **IV. PERHAPS THE GREATEST CULPRIT FOR BREAKING GOD'S LAW IN THE HOME IS THE TELEVISION**

A. Television aren't lawless (The abuse of a thing is not a valid argument against its proper use). It's the way we use the television that can be lawless.

B. The television's misuse can break one or all of God's Ten Commandments.

C. Have you as a parent abdicated your prophetic office to the television? (**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**). *Are you exercising dominion over your TV or is it exercising dominion over you?* (Mike Teavee!)

- ✓ *Young people, have you violated God's Law by watching things on TV your parent's don't approve of?*
- ✓ *Parents, is your use of the television contradicting what you are teaching your children?*
- ✓ *Is it promoting a worldview that rejects God and His Word?*
- ✓ *Are you or your children spending so much time in front of the television that you don't have time to read and teach your children the Bible?*
- ✓ *Can your children name all their favorite television characters and not name the 12 disciples?*
- ✓ *Can your children sing the theme tunes to their favorite TV show and not the words to any of the Psalms?*
- ✓ *Do your children have more lines from movies memorized than they do Bible verses?*

D. ***Covenant Commitment***: Come to the Lord's Table this evening and find the strength necessary for living the Christian life. Come to the sacrament of communion this evening to confess your sin and find forgiveness. Come to the Lord's Table this evening to commit or recommit your life to following Jesus Christ (**Matthew 11:28-30; cf. Joshua 24:14-28**).

### **QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:**

*Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer for yourself, your family, the church and/or your nation. Remember that prayer consists in Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (Feel free to use the outline for praying).*

*What are the three most foundational questions of parenting?*

*What does it mean to be made in the image of God? How is this related to parenting?*

*What is wrong with cursing your children or speaking to them in demeaning and undignified terms?*

*How is parenting like softball?*

*In what ways is the Law of God not being upheld in your home? In what ways have you been a "judicial activist" and reinterpreted or rewritten God's constitution, the Ten Commandments?*

*Are televisions evil? Wherein does the problem with TV lie?*

## ILLUSTRATIONS

A university softball coach once said that in a softball game "he could send a player to the plate without a bat. That player could get on base if the pitcher was wild and either walked or hit him. He could even score a run ... But what has the coach done if he sends a player to the plate without a bat? He has put the player's destiny into the hands of those who oppose him!" (J. Otis Ledbetter, "Celebrating Spiritual Milestones" in Focus on the Family/November 2001 p.7).

There is a book by Roald Dahl that most of you are probably familiar with called *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. It's the story of five children who were allowed into Mr. Willy Wonka's chocolate factory. One by one, each of the children disobeyed the rules of the chocolate factory, all except for Charlie.

There was one boy by the name of "Mike Teavee." Mike Teavee got all excited when he saw a chocolate bar transported from one place to another by the television. Mike Teavee wanted to be the first person to be transported by TV and he disobeyed Willy Wonka and ran to where a great camera was standing and was turned into a million tiny pieces. The factory workers, called Oompa-Loompas then sang a song:

*The most important thing we've learned,  
So far as children are concerned,*

*Is never, NEVER, NEVER, let*

*Them near your television set –*

*Or better still, just don't install*

*The idiotic thing at all.*

*In almost every house we've been,*

*We've watched them gaping at the screen.*

*They loll and slop and lounge about,*

*And stare until their eyes pop out.*

*...They sit and stare and stare and sit*

*Until they're hypnotized by it,*

*Until they're absolutely drunk*

*With all that shocking ghastly junk.*

*Oh yes, we know it keeps them still,*

*They don't climb out the window sill,*

*They never fight or kick or punch,*

*They leave you free to cook the lunch*

*And wash the dishes in the sink –*

*But did you ever stop to think,*

*To wonder just exactly what*

*This does to your beloved tot?*

*IT ROTTS THE SENSES IN THE HEAD!  
IT KILLS IMAGINATION DEAD!  
IT CLOGS AND CLUTTERS UP THE MIND!  
IT MAKES A CHILD SO DULL AND BLIND  
HE CAN NO LONGER UNDERSTAND  
A FANTASY, A FAIRYLAND!  
HIS BRAIN BECOMES AS SOFT AS CHEESE!  
HIS POWERS OF THINKING RUST AND FREEZE!  
HE CANNOT THINK – HE ONLY SEES! ...*

(Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* [Alfred A. Knopf: New York, Revised Edition 1973] pp.145f.)

Now despite, Roald Dahl's protest against TV, his book still was made into a movie! Ah, the ironies of life.