

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

*841 Old Hickory Blvd.
Jackson, TN 38305*

October 07, 2012

Volume 32, # 41

Recognized Danger to Children

The March issue of Parents magazine includes an article by Dianne Hales entitled Parents Report: Too Sexy Too Soon. Of course this is a secular magazine with no purpose to call attention to Biblical teaching. And the magazine cannot be endorsed in whole, nor this particular article. What is of interest to me is, some things are so obvious and so threatening to the welfare of children, even those who claim no Biblical commitment at all can see them. And what a spectacle, when people without a claim of scriptural loyalty can see what many professors of faith ignore or take lightly.

The point of the article is to alert parents to the impact of exposure to sexualized language and situations, especially on the very young. Parents are warned about our sex-heavy pop culture, the media's obsession with sex, and the daily reality of children being bombarded with sexual imagery.

Even movies geared toward young children aren't as tame as they were a generation ago. Pocahontas, with her strapless dress and exposed cleavage, is far sexier than Cinderella ever was. Remakes of *The*

Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle and Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, unlike the originals, are sprinkled with double entendres and sexual references. I agree with the writer who says that popular culture is awash in sexuality, and the point is to take serious measures of instruction, influence and monitoring to guard children. In expressing the responsibility of parents, one warning is: Don't encourage sexual precociousness. You may be sending your child the wrong messages if you buy skin-baring clothing or applaud sexy dancing as cute. I remind you, these quotes are not taken from a preacher's sermon on dancing and modesty. And so I repeat my earlier observation: If people in the secular world can see this threat, how much more should Christians not only be aware of this, but be bold in appropriate teaching from the Word of God.

God has called us to a high and noble purpose. He has not called us to uncleanness, but in holiness, (1 Thess. 4:7). Sexual purity must be illustrated and taught. We must expect purity, instruct purity, monitor children with purity in mind and respond negatively to immoral behavior. We ought to give up any desire to conform to the culture or trivialize risky behavior. Do we need to be reminded that a child left to himself brings shame to his mother? (Prov. 29:15).

- Warren E. Berkley
(Quotations from Parents magazine, March 2001).

THE STRANGER

A few months before I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small Tennessee town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer, and soon invited him to live with our family.

The stranger was quickly accepted and was around to welcome me into the world a few months later.

As I grew up I never questioned his place in our family. In my young mind each member had a special niche. My brother, Bill, five years my senior, was my example. Fran, my younger sister, gave me an opportunity to play "big brother" and to develop the art of teasing. My parents were complementary instructors. Mom taught me to love the word of God and Dad taught me to obey it.

But the stranger was our storyteller. He could weave the most fascinating tales. Adventures, mysteries, and comedies were daily conversations. He would hold our whole family spell-bound for hours each evening.

If I wanted to know about politics, history, or science, he knew it all. He knew about the past, understood the present, and seemingly could predict the future. The pictures he could draw were so life like that I would often laugh or cry as I watched.

He was like a friend to the whole family. He took Dad, Bill and me to our first major league baseball game. He was always encouraging us to see the movies and he even made arrangements to introduce us to several movie stars. My brother and I were deeply impressed by John Wayne in particular.

The stranger was an incessant talker. Dad didn't seem to mind but sometimes Mom would quietly get up while the rest of us were enthralled with one of his stories of far-away places—go to her room, read her Bible, and pray, I wonder now if she ever prayed that the stranger would leave.

You see, my Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions. But this stranger never felt obligation to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our house — not from us, from our friends or from adults. Our longtime visitor, however, used occasional four letter words that burned my ears and made Dad squirm. To my knowledge the stranger was never confronted. My dad was a teetotaler who didn't permit alcohol in his home — not even for cooking. But the stranger felt like we needed exposure and enlightened us to other ways of life. He offered us beer and other alcoholic beverages often.

He made cigarettes look tasty, cigars manly, and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (probably much too freely, about sex). His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing. I know now that my early concepts of the man-woman relationships were influenced by the stranger.

As I look back, I believe it was the grace of God that the stranger did not influence us more. Time after time he opposed the values of my parents. Yet he was seldom rebuked and never asked to leave.

More than thirty years have passed since the stranger moved in with the young family on Morningside Drive. He is not nearly so intriguing to my Dad as he was in those early years. But if I were to walk into my parents den today, you would still see him sitting over in a corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.

His name? We always just called him TV.

- Keith Currie

The one sentence which refutes all other world views:

“IN THE BEGINNING, GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH.”

- It refutes atheism because the universe was created by God.
- It refutes pantheism for God is transcendent to which He created.
- It refutes polytheism for one God created all things.
- It refutes materialism for matter had a beginning.
- It refutes dualism because God was alone when He created.
- It refutes humanism because God, not man is the ultimate reality.
- It refutes evolution for God created all things.

- Dr. Henry Morris

Each of these philosophies has its basis in disbelief. Nations and individuals have adopted at least one or more of them. The Bible doesn't attempt to refute the above individually because they were developed much later in attempt to replace the true account of the origins of the universe and God's established standard for our lives.

THIS WEEK'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: *“The Bible: Seven Important Truths!”* (text: 1 Thess. 2:13); Sunday evening: *“David Praises The Lord!”* (text: 1 Chron. 29:10-13).