

Family Matters

“Guarding Our Homes”

A Biblical Response To Media And The Family



Psalms 101:2-4 “I will behave wisely in a perfect way... I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set nothing wicked (worthless) before my eyes... I will not know wickedness.”

Philippians 4:8 “Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things (let your mind dwell on these things).

Job 31:1,7 “I have made a covenant with my eyes... If my heart has been led by my eyes...”

Proverbs 23:7 “As a man thinketh, so is he...”

Proverbs 4:23 “Guard your heart with all diligence, for out of it springs the issues of life.”

Romans 16:19; “I want to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil.”

The Media’s Distorted View Of Reality:

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(Titus 2:12; Ephesians 4:17-19; Romans 12:2; 13:13,14; 2 Corinthians 10:4,5; Jeremiah 4:14; Matthew 15:18; 12:34;35)

Internet Issues:

Myspace/Facebook/YouTube/Pornography

Cell Phone Picts:

Internet Screening Software:

Safe Eyes (www.Internetsafety.com)

www.familysafemedia.com (ishield+; net protector)

TV/Movie Filter Devices:

www.ClearPlay.com (\$80 yearly fee - \$8 month)(player - \$80)
TV Guardian (close captioned – limited)

Family Friendly Videos/DVDs:

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Computer Gaming:

(violence, immorality, witchcraft, time loss, expense)

Are children becoming desensitized to evil?

Ephesians 5:15-17 "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeem the time, because the days are evil.

Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

Fantasy And Your Family:

- Stories which teach moral principles. (fiction/folklore/fantasy, fairy tales, fables, nursery rhymes)
- Questions to ask:
 - What is its meaning and what effect does it have on the reader?
 - What are the underlying assumptions of the story?
 - Does it make evil repellant or attractive? Is vice a virtue?
 - Is there any confusion between what is good and bad?
 - Is it difficult to decide who is the hero and who is the villain?
 - Does it make a child want to imitate (emulate) the good character's courage or the bad character's behavior?
 - What consequences are there for wrong behavior?
 - Does it present suffering in a way that a child sympathizes with those who hurt or does it give the impression that hurting others is pleasurable and acceptable?
 - Does good, justice, and mercy triumph in the end? Is there hope?
 - Is it close to reality (blending/Magick and occult practice) or is it imaginary (unrecognizable) and reflective of a different reality and is symbolic of Biblical supernaturalism and the battle between good and evil?
- Clear lines should be drawn between objective good and evil. There should be no confusion as to which is which.
 - Isaiah 5:20 "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness."
 - Deuteronomy 18:9-14 "...you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found

among you anyone who makes his son or daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD... You shall be blameless before the LORD your God." (Ex. 22:18; Lev. 19:26,31; 20:6,7,27)

1 Timothy 4:1 "...In the latter times some will depart from the faith giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons..." (Acts 8:9-24; 19:19)

Resources:

Fantasy And Your Family, Richard Abases, Christian Publications, Inc. 2002.

A Landscape With Dragons: The Battle For Your Child's Mind, Michael O' Brien

What About Harry Potter?

"The phenomenal interest aroused by the Harry Potter books... indicates a burning desire on the part of young and old to enter the enticing world of magic." (The Gnostic Society, 8/4/2000)

"It is good to see that the best selling series of books in the western world is such a positive tale about witches and wizards." (The Children of Artemis) (a Wicca Website)

J. K. Rowling has admitted a lifelong fascination with the occult. Her novels borrow heavily from occult lore, history, beliefs, legends and practices. (1999 interview Barnes/Noble)

Harry Potter does not outline the technical teachings of Witchcraft or Wicca but it does present witchcraft and magickal practices used by Wiccans.

"The series, both as books and in the movie form are a wonderful metaphor of how we as Witches/Wiccans/Pagans/ Magickal people perceive our own spirituality/work/studies, and our vision of the world. The symbolism is strong, and I have found myself reacting so many times, by reading between the lines and looking beyond the exaggerated way their magical acts and spells is depicted, and reacting positively, thinking, 'This is So right!' Even as I think Quarrel himself has said it so plainly, although he was serving as host for Lord Voldemort, 'There is no good or evil, there is only power, and those too weak to seek it.' This might actually offend some, but it hides one of the great truths of Witchcraft, that there is no White or Black Magick, there is only Magick, and it is the use we make of it

that defines its purpose, although we usually see a dark use of Magick as weakness, rather than strength." (Wiccan article in Pagan Perspectives #1420 on 10/24/2001)

"Rowling has done her homework. Her hidden references are so numerous, and her knowledge so deep, that I'm certain she has done much research on the subject of real sorcery. Many of her characters are named after famous occultists of the past, many of her fantastic spells actually exist, and her magical creatures are straight out of ancient mythology. She is writing about the same witchcraft that I study at home... I recognize much of Rowling's work from Middle Age grimmer I've read. These have a historical basis. And I will be more than happy to share it with you."

("The Harry Potter Witchcraft Spellbook") Rowling's use of occult symbolism has resulted in some striking parallels to real-world magick.

Believers:

- Expose Evil (Eph. 5:10-13; 2 Cor. 2:10,11; Acts 26:18)
- Don't give the devil an opportunity (Eph. 4:27)

C. S. Lewis said, "*There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.*"

The Power Of Literature:

- The power and value of the imagination
Kids have lost their ability to dream/imagine
- What is being taught by the books (magazines) that my child is reading?