

Wings

*"Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles."
Isaiah 40:31*



November 5, 2017

Raising Kids in an X-Rated World

Children today are exposed to a flood of sexualized imagery that can easily overwhelm their emerging faith. Parents can win the battle, but only with a deliberate strategy to win.

"You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire; you shall not covet the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared by it; for it is an abomination to the Lord your God. Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is an accursed thing" (Deut. 7:25-26).



When Israel entered Canaan, they found themselves surrounded by idol worshipping neighbors. In many cases, the idols were not cute little figurines, but human or animal forms that featured exaggerated genitalia. These images promoted religions that embraced a lifestyle of unbridled sexual lust. Consequently, God's prohibition against allowing these idols into the Israelites' homes was not an arbitrary religious rule, but a common-sense defense against the threat of being drawn into the moral decadence of the Canaanites.

The sexualized idolatry of those ancient times has not disappeared. It still

exists today, but in different—and more deadly—forms. Thanks to technology, we now have, instead of crude figurines, very realistic and graphic depictions of sexual debauchery.

If the threat of sexual imagery is still with us, so is the prohibition against allowing it into our homes. Parents who are serious about protecting their children from the influence of our hypersexualized culture can take some practical steps to minimize the risk.

Don't let your kids have TVs or computers in their rooms—especially if they are linked to the internet or cable services. Giving children unsupervised access to everything from raunchy sex humor to hardcore pornography is parental malpractice.

Don't let them have smart phones—period. Modern cell phones are marvels of technology, placing the whole world at our fingertips. For children, that kind of access should be a parent's nightmare. If you want to keep in touch, low budget cell phones with basic call features are sufficient. Anything beyond that is asking for trouble.

Set rules and enforce them. Children should know what kind of movies and TV shows they can watch. There should be rules about what kind of friends they can hang out with, curfews, the use of profanity, and so forth. And the rules must be backed up with enforcement.

Give your children a positive alternative to the destructive culture that surrounds them. Schedule wholesome entertainment outings. Get more involved in church activities. Draw closer to families who share your values.

Finally, develop a healthy relationship with your kids. Dedicate quality time every week with each child to talk about how their life is going. These casual visits may seem insignificant, but they are the little strands that over time will forge a strong rope binding your children to you and your values.

Raising children in our X-rated world is not easy, but it can be done. It requires deliberate choices on the part of parents, and the willingness to stand up against a culture that seeks to corrupt our kids. The battle will be won or lost, as always, in the home.

— David King