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The Family Friend

A collection of articles and quotes to aid your family in daily living.

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Go Away For Hollywood by Jack W. Carter

I am certain that Shirley Temple was the most popular and famous Hollywood child star ever. Even today her films are viewed over and over again.

What many may not know is that she turned her back on Hollywood in her early adult years. She went on to become the US Representative to the UN, and later served as the Ambassador to Ghana and Czechoslovakia. The 79 year-old star now resides in Northern California.

What many do not know is that, in her early adult years, she turned her back on the industry because she disapproved of what it stood for. Her moral standards would not allow her to continue a relationship. Even today she speaks out in opposition to the shameless conduct of such celebrities as Britney Spears.

I seriously doubt that any person of genuine moral integrity would try to defend the brazen decadence of Holly-

wood environments. Yet, amazingly, it is this realm of dedicated debauchery that sets the standards for the greater part of our society. What is even more staggering, however, is that this includes the "Christian" culture.

The primary target of Hollywood seems to be the home. Husbands and fathers are portrayed as bumbling inept clowns, out of touch, outside any arena of authority and usually subservient to a despot wife, who has to lead the way for husband and child. Disdain and contempt for any kind of parental authority bombards nearly every scene. They know that if they can discredit the parents, they have free access to the children.

Take a good look at how fads of the entertainment community lead the children to the way they dress, who their idols should be, how to make the latest beat their music, and that it all should be the demanding priority of life. Even TV ads hawk their wares by displaying adolescents and teens jumping, wiggling, and grinding with music piped into their ears, a look of contempt on their faces and displaying absolutely nothing that suggests that they view life as anything more than a quest to be cool.

What can be done about

this? Christian parents are going to be caught up in the fray as well as parents of the world. Their children are going to want to "fit-in," "be cool," have the latest recording, dress according to the latest fad and be wherever the "cool" hang out.

So, what is a parent to do?

The answer is, **DO YOUR JOB!** God put you in charge! Not Hollywood, not your children, but **YOU!** Be courageous enough to say "no" to anything that will undermine the spiritual well being of the home. The children will complain, plead, make you feel out-of-touch and even suggest that they might run away from home. But, stand your ground! You know a whole lot more about consequences than they do. You are not as dumb as Hollywood wants you to believe.

The best way to approach this is to start early with spiritual direction. Help them to appreciate Christian values long before the tug of Hollywood begins its enticement. Show them, by the way you live your life, that you are dedicated to practice what you preach. God will help you if you really have your heart in the task.

So, instead of "hooray for Hollywood," it seems to me that it would be much more prudent

for Christian parents to say, "Go away for Hollywood."

Discontented Children

When a parent is asked, "What do you want most for your children," they probably provide one of the following answers: health, success, or happiness. While parents can only control so many factors concerning their children's health and success, many today want to *make* their children happy. I emphasize the word "make" because the reality is that we can not make anyone happy or unhappy. Happiness is a choice, an attitude, a disposition of mind.

As parents desire to make their children happy, they lavish them with things—toys, video games, unsupervised freedom, etc. They hesitate to tell their children "no" to anything, fearing the loss of their children's love. The funny thing about this is that the more parents say "yes" to their children, the less true love and respect children show their parents. Eventually the day comes when that child becomes an adult and learns that life frequently says "no." If children rarely hear "no" in their youth, they often do not appropriately react to hearing it as adults.

God's parenting of us, His children, often involves Him saying "no." Please read what He says to Paul in II Corinthians 12:7-10. What an amazing concept! By telling Paul "no," God was helping the apostle develop a greater sense of contentment. By be-

ing told "no," Paul was able to more clearly divide his wants from his needs and focus on God rather than himself. By being told "no," Paul did not place his hope in the fleeting stuff of this life. By being told "no," Paul actually loved and served His Father with greater appreciation and faithfulness.

God instructs us that true contentment actually comes when we lack some of life's stuff. In the absence of stuff, we find the fullness of contentment that comes through a saving relationship with God. If you want to follow God's parenting style, say "yes" to your children at times, but please be sure to mix those "yeses" with a healthy dose of "nos."

—Blaine Kelly

Training Our Boys To Be Real Men

Fathers, here is a list of things that we can do to help our boys to grow up and one day become real men. Our little boys need . . .

- ◆ To know that we love them. How do you spell love? T-I-M-E!
- ◆ To realize that daily family devotionals are important.
- ◆ To see their daddy make decisions for the good of the family, and see him stick to them.
- ◆ To understand that daddy expects his son(s) to tell the truth.
- ◆ To be given specific re-

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responsibilities and expect that those responsibilities be carried out faithfully.

- ◆ To see a consistent example and be able to follow it.
- ◆ To hear their daddy speak often about doing the right thing.
- ◆ To value their name.
- ◆ To observe and befriend wise men.
- ◆ To hear daddy pray for wisdom.
- ◆ To listen to good Bible lessons.

While this is not an exhaustive list by any means, it certainly gives us some things to think about.

May God bless us as we raise our little boys to become real men.

—Adapted from a lesson given by **Glenn Colley**

Addicted?

"Millions of Americans are so hooked on television that they fit the criteria for substance abuse as defined by the official psychiatric manual...: 1) using TV as a sedative; 2) indiscriminate viewing; 3) feeling loss of control while viewing; 4) feeling angry with oneself for watching too much; 5) inability to stop watching; and 6) feeling miserable when kept from watching."—from **GBN In-Depth, No. 1, 2007**