

Protecting Our Children

A lecture by Steve Gregg

I. The Enemies

- A. The flesh—learning self-indulgence (gluttony*, sexual obsession, laziness)
- B. The World—attitudes of culture taught and caught (CRT, LGBT+, moral and intellectual slackness); Teach non-conformity to the world (Rom.12:2; 1 Pet.4:1-1-4; Phil.3:17-19)
- C. The Devil—seeing the world as a battlefield, the devil as the malicious deceiver, contempt for the occult and discernment about the demonic realm.

II. Specific dangers to modern children

- A. Trauma. (the divorce of parents; abuse; exposure to violence or perversion)
- B. Rejection (a parent's priorities, acceptance vs. approval; teach Ps27:10)
- C. Deception (Fortify against error with biblical truths)
- D. Corruption (Teach and live biblical values; instill the fear of God)

II. Prioritize relationship

- A. Be the principal influence in their hearts and minds (Deut.6:6-7)
- B. Be the Christian that they need you to be.
- C. Inculcate respect for parents and for worthy authorities (Eph.6:1-3)
- D. Teach and live by the biblical worldview (Eph.6:4), and to stand alone, if necessary (Dan.1:8)
- E. Show by your priorities and commitments that you are the one whose love and acceptance, along with corrections, they can always count on.
- F. Train them early in biblical norms of gender, race, family and charitable tolerance
- G. Teach them early to never keep secrets from you, even if others ask them to
- H. Engage the culture with them—Read and view with them anything questionable, and engage with them in analysis of its message, values, ideas about marriage, God, etc.
- I. Make wise and intentional use of biographies, stories, proverbs, moral tales (e.g., Aesop's, Pilgrim's Progress, etc).
- J. By your instruction you can make them know the truth, but only by your relationship and example can you make them care about it. The mind and the heart must be trained.

III. Schooling choices

- A. You decide your children's most desirable curriculum priorities, based upon godly values
- B. Home schooling or closely monitored schooling
- C. Churches & Christian friends should explore options for single moms
- D. Entry into institutional schooling—better late than early (It is easier to take your kids into Sodom than to get them out—Gen.19).

IV. Media and socialization

- A. No smart phones (nor unsupervised access to internet or social media) prior to young adulthood
- B. Specific dangers of the enemy's (electronic) "devices"
 - 1. Addiction
 - 2. Information overload
 - 3. Stupidity

4. Short attention span
 5. Isolation; relational retardation
 6. Shallow or clueless social skills
 7. Porn and Child grooming
 8. Woke propaganda
- C. Letting the internet and social media babysit your children is convenient, but lazy and cowardly parenting. Parents raised children without them for thousands of years, and produced better children and adults:
- Require children to learn to do math before giving them a calculator.
 - Make them read actual physical books before letting them look up information online.
 - Require them to develop in-person social skills with real friends and family long before they are given access to social media.
 - Make them physically work and play outdoors before giving them access to game consoles. Never allow time spent on the latter to equal or exceed the former.
 - Until children are responsible adults, never let them use devices which you cannot monitor.

A parent is his or her child's first line of defense. We are their police, their guardians and gatekeepers. This is often viewed today as too labor-intensive. However, today's generation of parents need to grow up and take adult responsibility in order to break the cycle of perpetual juvenility. God has given us the responsibility to stand as the thin blue line between the vulnerable ones under our care and the malignant and aggressive forces which are our primary assignment to resist.

* Obesity in Children Stats:

For children and adolescents aged 2-19 years in 2017-2020¹:

- The prevalence of obesity was 19.7% and affected about 14.7 million children and adolescents.
- Obesity prevalence was 12.7% among 2- to 5-year-olds, 20.7% among 6- to 11-year-olds, and 22.2% among 12- to 19-year-olds. Childhood obesity is also more common among certain populations.
- Obesity prevalence was 26.2% among Hispanic children, 24.8% among non-Hispanic Black children, 16.6% among non-Hispanic White children, and 9.0% among non-Hispanic Asian children.
- Obesity-related conditions include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, type 2 diabetes, breathing problems such as asthma and sleep apnea, and joint problems.