



The Apple's Core

Keeping Christ at the Core

Media Choices and Challenges

By Brenda Urice

Whether we are reading, listening, watching, or using interactive media devices we are making choices every day for our families and ourselves. Print—classical literature, newspapers, magazines, lusty romance novels, pornography. Radio—news & weather, political commentary, music, racy interviews, perverse language. Movies—G, PG, PG-13, R, X, XXX, not rated. TV, internet, iPod, Instant Messaging, Text Messaging, chat rooms, My Space, Face Page, Blackberry, Game Boy, and the list goes on. Each presents its own special advantages and challenges.

Annually, the born again Christian population in the US “is likely to spend more than \$1 billion on media products such as CDs, DVDs, video games, and magazines for children under 18 despite parental misgivings about the moral content or developmental affects of those resources.” Notably, Hispanics and fathers are least likely to make ques-

tionable media purchases, while the most likely buyers are single parents, those least active in practicing their faith, and mothers! This information is according to The Barna Update article entitled “Christian Parents Are Not Comfortable with Media but Buy Them for Their Kids Anyway” (Nov 19, 2007).

George Barna, the study’s lead researcher says, “Millions of Christian parents want to appear to be relevant in their children’s eyes, and to provide gifts that fit within the mainstream of postmodern society. The problem is that many of the entertainment products that meet those criteria conflict with moral precepts of the Christian faith.”

According to the study, 26% of the parents who buy DVDs, 33% of the parents who purchase music CDs, 39% of those who purchase video games, 24% of those who make software purchases, and fully 70% of parents who purchase

downloads for mobile phones are concerned about the content of those purchases, and yet they buy them anyway.

What about you? Are you abdicating your responsibility to make wise choices in the media arena because you fear being perceived by your children as out-of-touch, a dinosaur, a wet blanket, a religious fanatic? God’s mandates are clear:

“I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart. I will set no worthless thing before my eyes.” (PS 101:2,3) Do your bookshelves meet this criterion?

“Among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking.” (Eph 5:3,4) Does your regular TV fare pass this test?

“Every good gift & every perfect gift is from above, and comes down

(Continued on page 2)

January



2007-2008

Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your



Have a question for the Mentor Moms? Drop it in the “Ask the Mentor Mom” basket at one of our meetings or send it to: e-moms@immanuelbible.net

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(Continued from page 1)

from the Father.” (Jas 1:17) Would your media purchases for your family qualify as “good gifts”?

In Michael Medved’s presentation “29/4 How Many Hours Are You Watching?” at The Medical Institute Conference June 2002, he said surveys indicate that the average American spends 29 hours and 4 minutes watching TV each week, more time than they spend in any other activity. He said that even if it is the best possible programming...it is too much because TV “as a medium makes young people impatient, pessimistic, and lonely.”

What steps can you take to break free of the media traps in your home?

- 1) Consider removing TV & internet access from bedrooms and/or other private locations
- 2) Encourage your family to read quality books, newspapers, & magazines
- 3) Shut off TV one day each week
- 4) Be deliberate in your media choices.

Enrich yourself; protect your family; practice your faith!!

Women's Bible Studies

In your search for God's truth in the Bible, E-moms wants to remind you that it's never too late to join a Bible study at Immanuel! Numerous daytime and evening studies are conducted, both at Immanuel (with childcare provided for a reasonable fee) and in homes throughout the area. Some are on-going subjects from Fall, while others are beginning new lessons this month, and whether you attend Immanuel, another church, or no church at all, you are welcome to join in at any time! Please check the Women's Ministry section on Immanuel's website at www.immanuelbible.net or call the church office at 703-941-4124 for more information.

T H E S O L E S O U R C E

In December we asked for your ideas on how to spend a snow day with your children. When the next show hits, try one of these suggestions from other E-Moms!

- Make paper snowflakes in different sizes and shapes and use them to cover your windows.
- Clean the snow off the path and drive so Dad has a clear path when he gets home!
- Make “ooblek” with a box of cornstarch and some water (food coloring optional). This makes a lovely goop that is fun to play with!
- Have extra spray-bottles ready for “snow paint” (food coloring + water).

Check us out on the web at www.immanuelbible.net/family/parenting/emoms.php

for the complete list of December “Sole Source” ideas!



Resources

Does the thought of manipulating the information superhighway seem like a daunting task to you? Does the thought of your child manipulating the information superhighway cause even more unease for you? In this day when our children are able to access the world from a growing number of portable gadgets, we need to educate ourselves on today's digital world.

In her book, Logged On and Tuned Out, Vicki Courtney does a magnificent job of helping over-

whelmed moms and dads learn the imperative basics of Instant Messaging, text messaging, social networking (i.e. MySpace), chat rooms, and more. A great read for any parent who wants to be "tuned in" to her child, and E-Moms is pleased to recommend it to you as our Book of the Month for January.

Other resources to try:

For reviews of movies, TV shows and CDs with a Christian perspective: www.pluggedinonline.com

Sex, Lies, and the Media: What Your Kids Know and Aren't Telling You, by Eva Marie Everson aims to help parents guide their children's media choices.

Clubhouse (tweens), Brio (teen girls) and Breakaway (teen boys) magazines from Focus on the Family provide alternatives to objectionable fare.

Internet-Protect Your Kids, by Stephen Arterburn and Roger Marsh tells how to monitor and guard your child's internet activity.



*Buy the Book of the Month at tonight's meeting at a **20% discount**, or in the Immanuel Christian Bookstore at the discounted price this month when you mention E-moms before you check out!*

Getting to the Core

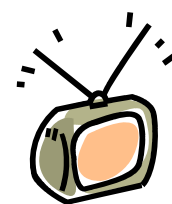
Are there times when you watch a movie or television show that you don't allow your children to see? Though we may spend lots of time scrutinizing what our children are allowed to view, do we apply the same kind of discernment to our own personal media habits? Even if you think this isn't an area of difficulty with you, you may want to take time to specifically evaluate each magazine, newspaper article, book, website and movie that you look at this month. You may be surprised at how often the portrayal of sinful behavior is presented to us in books, movies or television as entertainment!

Although we may be tempted to think we can "handle it" and "keep it in perspective" because we are adults, the truth is that we don't have to participate in sins physically in order to be sinning. Purposeful exposure to behavior that is abhorrent to God should not be something we take lightly. In Matthew 5:27-28 Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said 'Do not commit adultery', but I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." This passage gives us a pretty clear picture of how seriously God takes the attitude of our hearts and minds when it comes

to sin! We can protect ourselves from a great many temptations, while also modeling good discernment for our children by keeping such material out of sight — and out of mind. You might consider posting the following Scripture by your television, computer or bookshelf as a reminder to be discerning in your choices:

"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me." Psalm 101:3

May God bless you as you strive to honor Him with what you allow into your mind and heart!



Above all else, guard your heart, for it is

We are still working on making the transition from cassette tapes to CDs!...thanks for your patience! Please keep an eye out for CDs of our future speakers, just \$4 each.



Keeping Christ

E-Moms is a Ministry of
Immanuel Bible Church
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Springfield, VA 22151

Questions?
703-941-4124 or
e-moms@immanuelbible.net

E-Moms is a ministry for mothers of Elementary-aged children. We aim to encourage, refresh, and inspire moms! You will get the opportunity to meet face to face and develop relationships with other moms in the same stage of life who are experiencing some of the same parenting joys and challenges as you. Our monthly meetings provide you with great food (all prepared for you), encouraging speakers (all relevant to you), and stimulating discussion (all geared toward you). Come join us!

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB! YOU'LL FIND THE SCHEDULE OF SPEAKERS FOR THE YEAR, GREAT IDEAS FROM OTHER MOMS ON TOPICS YOU CAN RELATE TO, AS WELL AS E-MOMS RECIPES AND THE ELECTRONIC (PDF) VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER!

WWW.IMMANUELBIBLE.NET/FAMILY/PARENTING/EMOMS.PHP

90 Minutes

The theme for the 2007–2008 90 Minutes season is "Dad's Toolbox". Our reference for the year is Chip Ingram's popular book, "Effective Parenting in a Defective World". Come join us on February 4th from 7-8:30 pm in the Terrace Rooms to hear Tom Joyce's insights on how to "Discipline Effectively". All fathers and grandfathers interested in being more purposeful in their parenting are invited to attend. Contact us:

ninetyminutes@verizon.net

Coffee Break with Mentor Moms



Questions about discipline issues? Sibling rivalry? Homeschooling? Our experienced Mentor Moms—Melinda Bargery, Enid Walker, and Jan Yantz want to help with the parenting challenges you're facing!

Please join us for coffee on February 8th at 10:00 am at Einstein Brothers Bagels 8317 Old Keene Mill Rd

Kids welcome!

E-Moms

E-Moms will meet again on February 25th from 7-9 pm in the Terrace Rooms. We will have a panel of moms sharing their insights and answering questions on the topic, "Shared Steps: The Importance of Friendship." Come join us for an evening of refreshments, encouragement and fellowship!

We love our children, but please remember that our meetings are for moms only.

