

THE SOUTHEAST SOWER

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Don't Take His Name In Vain

Jordon Smith

The 20th chapter of Exodus provides us with a list of the ten commandments. In verse 7, the commandment listed for the Israelites is, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain." This is a command, though we are not under the Law of Moses, is one that carries over to us in the New Law. It is good to remember that God is unchanging; therefore, He is the same Lord that ruled in the Old Testament times. When we think of God's requirements from the Old Law to the New Law, we understand, at the most basic level, God has always required His people to be holy. 1st Peter 1:14-16, we read that as faithful children of God we are to be holy, for He is Holy. This means we must be set apart and be different in our conduct and speech from the world.

God is Holy; He is different from all other things because there is no being or object that has the power and authority, mercy or love, etc., similar to God. In our daily life we need to make a special note of this fact. See, taking the Lord's name in vain does not simply consist of using His name as an expression or exclamation. We can take His name in vain in a variety of ways. Any occasion where we use His name, in any of the euphemistic forms, or take a casual approach to Him in any aspect of our worship, both privately and publically, makes His name common. Once you decided to obey the Gospel call, a choice was made. You decided to become a follower of Christ, a. k. a. become a Christian. Since that choice was made, you have been wearing the name of Christ everywhere you have gone. With this privilege comes responsibility. People are watching how you speak and act. Remember, God has always required His people to be holy; to be set apart from the world. Be mindful in everything you do to give the Lord the glory and honor He deserves. And never approach the Lord casually, without regard to His power and majesty, for in

doing so you do so in vain.

Recognized Danger To Children

(Comments on an Article in Parents Magazine)

Warren E. Berkley

The March issue of Parents Magazine includes an article by Dianne Halen entitled Parents Report: Too Sexy Too Soon. Of course, this is a secular magazine with no purpose to call attention to Biblical teaching. And the magazine cannot be endorsed in whole, nor this particular article. What is of interest to me is, some things are so obvious and so threatening to the welfare of children, even those who claim no Biblical commitment at all can see them. And what a spectacle, when people without any claim of scriptural loyalty can see what many professors of faith ignore or take lightly.

The point of this article is to alert parents to the impact of exposure to sexualized language and situations, especially on the very young. Parents are warned about our sex-heavy pop culture, the media's obsession with sex, and the daily reality of children being bombarded with sexual imagery. ➡

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Sunday: 10 am, 10:50am; 6:00pm

Wednesday: 7:30 pm

Even movies geared toward young children aren't as tame as they were a generation ago. Pocahontas, with her strapless dress and exposed cleavage, is far sexier than Cinderella was. Remakes of The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle and Dr. Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, unlike the originals, are sprinkled with double intenders and sexual references. I agree with the writer who says that Popular culture is awash in sexuality, and the point is to take serious measures of instruction, influence and monitoring to guard children.

In expressing the responsibility of parents, one warning is: Don't encourage sexual precociousness. You may be sending your child the wrong messages if you buy skin-barring clothing or applaud sexy dancing as cute. I remind you, these quotes are not taken from a preachers sermon on dancing and modesty. And so I repeat my earlier observation: If people in the secular world can see this threat, how much more should Christians not only be aware of this, but be bold in appropriate teaching from the Word of God.

God has called us to a high and noble purpose. He has not called us to uncleanness, but in holiness (1 Thess. 4:7). Sexual purity must be illustrated and taught. We must expect purity, instruct purity, monitor children with purity in mind and respond negatively to immoral behavior. We ought to give up any desire to conform to the culture or trivialize risky behavior. Do we need to be reminded that a child left to himself brings shame to his mother (Prov. 29:15)

(Quotations from Parents Magazine, March 2001)



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

1. Exercise Dailey: Walk With The Lord
 2. Watch your step carefully! Everyone else does
 3. Forbidden fruits create many jams
 4. Give God what's right, not what's left
 5. Don't give God instructions, just report for duty
 6. God promises a safe landing not a calm passage
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Remember

1. Those of our number who are sick, in nursing homes, hospitals, rehab centers, and shut-in
2. Up-coming gospel meetings in the area, but especially our own meeting with brother John Gibson, March 24-29