

Question: How can we be a family that is in the world but not of the world?

Tullian Tchividjian in his book, *Unfashionable*, adds, “We need to avoid being culturally removed - failing to be in the world, like a ship out of water. We also need to avoid being culturally relaxed, becoming of the world, like a ship being submerged.”¹

In *Unfashionable*, Tchividjian quotes D.L. Moody on this subject. “The place for the ship is in the sea, but God help the ship if the sea gets into it.”²



¹ Tchividjian, *Unfashionable*, p.81.

² Ibid

I. Assess what you are up against.

- A. Rod Dreher writes in the July/Aug 2005 publication *Touchstone*, p.29,

The most fundamental thing for countercultural parents to do is to start thinking of all media in marketing terms: that nearly everything you see on TV, at the movies, and in print is part of one big ad campaign designed, whether consciously or not, to separate you and your children from your values We should take seriously our homes as the central institution in our children's lives, and think of them as places where countercultural Christian values are intentionally lived and celebrated, and kept alive for a better time. We must embrace the fact that we will be permanent outsiders, if we are to be faithful to our God and to the sacred responsibility of our sons' and daughters' soul craft.³

II. Establish a plan of attack utilizing Spiritual inoculation.

- A. Spiritual inoculation can be given to children by God-fearing parents.
1. Spiritual inoculation is parallel to physical inoculation in definition and purpose.
 - a. Definition of inoculation: *An introduction of a controlled exposure to the disease along with the resistance from the donor so as to fortify the recipient against future infection.*
 - b. Elements of inoculation: Controlled exposure and accompanying resistance
 - c. Purpose of the inoculation: Exposure to fortify against disease.
 2. **Spiritual inoculation has as its purpose the development of a resistance to the world. We do NOT deliberately expose our children to evil. Instead we address the evil that our children encounter in daily living. When they become aware of evil we address it with the Word of God to help our children view sin as God does.**

³ Dreher, Rod. *Touchstone*, July/Aug 2005,
Dreh<http://www.touchstonemag.com/archives/article.php?id=18-06-028-f>

- B. Spiritual inoculation of our children begins as soon as evil and its consequences manifest themselves and we are ready to identify them and address them.
 - 1. Spiritual inoculation takes place when we are ready - with the Word of God - to identify and address evil that confronts our children. This must be relative to our children's ability to understand and apply to their lives.
 - 2. Spiritual inoculation continues with our children as the length and depth of our children's exposure and recognition of evil increase. This is what the Scriptures address in Hebrews 5:13-14.

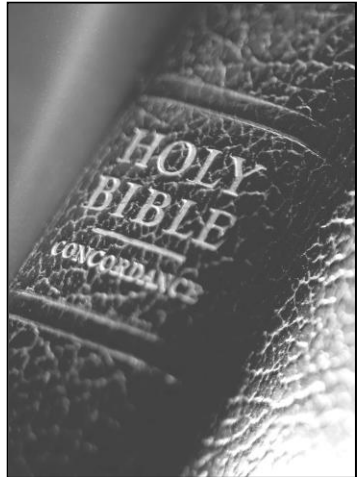
III. Commit yourself to the Spiritual inoculation of your children.

- A. Stay alert to the advantage of the teachable moments when you can share with your child God's view of the world.
A child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.
Correct thy son and he shall give thee rest: yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul. Proverbs 29: 15,17
- B. When your children are exposed to worldly experiences or philosophies be willing to experience inconvenience and interruptions to immediately address the issues from Scripture.
- C. Condemn evil as God condemns it. Don't rationalize or excuse evil to accommodate the compromise of others.
- D. Keep your children spiritually healthy by grounding them in the whole counsel of God. (Inoculation serum is only effective if administered to a healthy recipient.)
 - 1. Spiritual health is the product of Biblical knowledge and understanding.
 - a. Give your children a biblical understanding of God and His purposes for them.
 - b. Give your children an understanding of their spiritual enemies - their flesh and the wiles of the devil who is the great deceiver.

IV. Apply Biblical principles of Spiritual inoculation when there is exposure – intended or unintended – to the media of movies or to the Internet.

- A. Remain mindful of the powerful impact of the motion picture medium. In a speech for the leading managers of the U.S. film industry on November 5, 1961, Edward Murrow quoted Carl Sandburg.

I meet people occasionally who think that motion pictures, the product of Hollywood, are merely entertainment, having nothing to do with education. That is a total fallacy. Anything that brings you to tears by way of drama does something to the deepest roots of our personalities. All movies, good or bad, are education, and Hollywood is the foremost educational institution on earth. The film is to America what the flag was once to Britain. By its means Uncle Sam may hope someday to Americanize the world. If one were to write the history of economic imperialism, the American film production would be one of the most interesting chapters.⁴



⁴ Hollywood: America's Most Significant Propaganda Tool.
http://politicalleft.blogspot.com/hollywood_americas_most_significant_propaganda_tool.htm

- B. Maintain caution when watching select movies with your children.
 - 1. Choose movies based upon recommendations of people and organizations that you know and trust and who have your values and goals.
 - 2. Preview the film
 - 3. Prepare your family for the film
 - 4. Explain your purpose and approach to these viewings
 - a. Have the children agree that the movie will be stopped when necessary.
 - b. Always take the time at the conclusion to assess the overall message, the good content, and the bad content, the weak content.
- C. Monitor the content and amount of time spent by your older children on the Internet.
 - 1. Review the effectiveness of your computer filters and choose applications that provide total parental monitoring like Safe Eyes and Net Nanny.
 - 2. Scrutinize video games and e-mail correspondence for ungodly content and communication.



V. Concluding Admonitions Regarding Worldliness

- A. Give your children positive examples of those who successfully resisted the world
 - 1. Joseph understood the perversity of evil. Gen 39:7-22.
 - 2. Daniel: purposed in his heart to not defile himself. Daniel 1:8
 - 3. Moses chose *rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin; considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.* Hebrews 11:24-27
- B. Value and monitor your children's social relationships
 - 1. Be proactive in preparing your child to be the right kind of friend.
 - 2. Don't minimize the incredible impact of friends and acquaintances on your children.
- C. Be aware of the impact of sensual, worldly, and contemporary Christian music on your children.
- D. Be aware and keep your children aware of Satan's devices.
 - 1. Satan desires to desensitize us to sin.
 - 2. Satan will use our acquaintances and every medium in our perverse culture including printed material, movies, the Internet, and music to desensitize us and then enslave us to sin.
 - a. Satan will weaken our discernment concerning good and evil
 - b. Satan will begin his work by enticing us to passively delight in some "little" sins.
- E. Pray fervently that God will give you the grace and wisdom to teach them the Scriptures, that He will work in their hearts, and that their lives may reflect Christ for his glory in our dark sin-cursed world.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- Aniol, Scott. *Worship in Song*. BMH Books. Available @ worshipinsongbook.com.
http://religiousaffectionsministries.org/rastore/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=1_2&products_id
- Hand, Brian. *Upright Downtime*, Greenville, SC: BJU Press, 2009.
- Horton, Ronald. *Objectionable Elements: The Biblical Approach*. Greenville: BJU Press, 1090.
- Hughes, R.K. *Set Apart*. Wheaton: Crossway Books. 2003.
- Mack, Wayne and Joshua. *A Fight to the Death*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing Company, 2006.
- Mahaney, C.J. *Worldliness*. Wheaton IL: Crossway, 2008.
- Makujina, John. *Measuring the Music*. Old Paths Publications.
http://www.oldpathspublications.org/_order.html
- Martin, Al. *How Not to Foul up the Training of Your Children*.
A 40 message series available on 2 MP3s (\$20) or free for online download at www.trinitymontville.org
- Tchividjiam, Tullian. *Unfashionable*. Mulnomah Books, Colorado Spring, Col, 2009.

Other Helpful Resources

- Creation Regained* by Al Wolters
Culture-Making by Andy Crouch
The Doctrine of the Christian Life by John Frame
Christ and Culture Revisited by D.A. Carson

Internet Filter Resources

- Net Nanny
www.netnanny.com
SafeEyes
www.Internetsafety.com

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