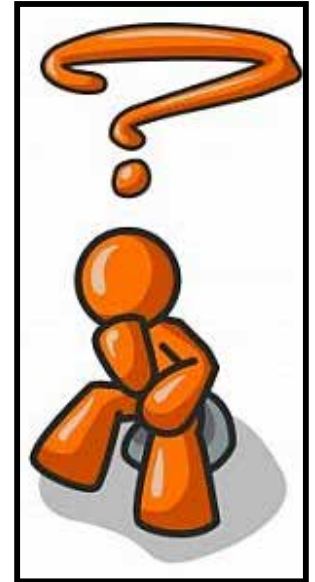


What About ... Raising Children in a Perverted Sinful World?

BY DARAN ARMSTRONG



*You shall tear down their altars and smash their **sacred pillars** and burn their asherim with fire, and you shall cut down the engraved images of their gods and obliterate their name from that place. You shall not act like this toward the Lord your God (Deuteronomy 12:3-4).*

In the Scripture above, God instructed the children of Israel to destroy the idols of the pagan nations that occupied the land that God had promised Israel for a possession. So, what is the practical application of the above Scripture today? What do we do when our sons go to a college biology class, and they're taught that our world and everything in it was created by an explosion somewhere in the universe, 13.8 billion years ago, and humans got here through the evolutionary process? What do we tell our daughters when

they are told it's okay to terminate a pregnancy, and that expelling a baby from their body is their choice? What do we do when our children go to a movie and see two women kissing or see a male that identifies as a female? In a world where truth is so convoluted, it's no wonder that more than 1 in 6 Americans are taking antidepressants or other forms of medication. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, only 1 in 50 people took those medications just 30 years ago [adaa.org/finding-help/treatment/medication]. Consequently, the practical application of Deuteronomy 12:3-4 is to answer all these lies with truth, backed up by Scripture—consistently.

The best place to start is to determine the **sacred pillars** of a world following the lies of the devil...*the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (2 Corinthians 4:4).*

- Abortion
- Feminism
- Evolution
- Tolerance of all religions
- LGBTQ
- Climate change
- Fornication
- Globalism
- Blasphemy (and "casual blasphemy")
- Destruction of the traditional family
- Drunkenness/drug abuse
- Mysticism
- Divorce/remarriage
- Atheism
- Progressivism

This list is not, by any means, exhaustive. Any social justice movement or anyone's worldview that is anti-

biblical may be added. For the sake of brevity, only a few of these will be referenced. Make no mistake, these **sacred pillars** are rooted in sin and totally contrary to biblical truth. The current world in which we live is ruled by the devil. These **sacred pillars** and those who promote them are following the devil's schemes.

For you are of your father the devil, and you want to to the desire of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44).

How do we combat the onslaught of lies that our children are hearing all day, every day? At a minimum, today's children are seriously conflicted. Do we continue to let them get their answers from public and private education, social media, and movies? Are we to relinquish our parental responsibility by giving it over to our Christian organizations? **NO—**

1. God is clear that He wants parents to instruct their children in the truth.

Train up a child in the way that he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6).

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2. Parents should be able to point their children to appropriate Scripture when confronted with false teaching.

Parents need to proclaim truth and combat lies with strong persuasive arguments. *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord* (Ephesians 6:4). When God said, “...smash their **sacred pillars**...” He intended that it would be carried out with force. We, as parents, need to chop down the lies of the devil with the *sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God* (Ephesians 6:10-17).

When our kids go to a movie or watch Netflix or TV and see two women kissing or men holding hands, we should be right there with Scripture to combat the lies (Romans 1:26-27). After they go back to school in the Fall and a boy formerly named Rob now identifies as a female named Roberta, what then? Parents need to unapologetically turn them to God’s Word for the correct answers (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:4-6). While our kids are reading or hearing from any media outlet that it is a woman’s body and her right to choose whether she terminates her pregnancy or not, we need to point to Scripture and let them know what God says and what is closest to His heart (Jeremiah 1:5). As parents, we need to proclaim truth and refute lies all the time (Proverbs 4:2-5). Young people should understand the difference between truth and lies and good and evil. It is a father and mother’s responsibility to confidently and forthrightly teach our children biblical truth all day, every day!

You shall teach them diligently to your sons and talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up (Deuteronomy 6:7).

3. The reason this does not happen is because Christian parents do not know their Bible well enough to lower the boom on today’s sacred pillars (1 Peter 3:13-15).

However, ignorance is no excuse! How do we overcome that ignorance? The answer is not “rocket science.”

Here are a few suggestions:

- Be a good example—strive to live a life of obedience rather than one of sin.
- Read the Bible rather than going to more Christian meetings.
- Study the Bible with someone who knows the Bible better than you do rather than just to to another small fellowship group.
- Disciple someone else...*entrust these things to faithful men who will be able to teach others also* (2 Timothy 2:2).
- Get your answers from the Bible rather than from politics or social media.
- Finally, try attending a church that preaches using expository (meaning of a particular text or passage) teaching rather than bouncing from one verse and off into la-la land.

Conclusion:

If you’re not willing to study the Bible, don’t have children!