

“THE THREE-EYED MONSTER”

By Shelby Faith



Everyone seems to be talking about the downward spiral of our country’s morals. We are in deep trouble with our youth because we adults do not seem to be able to control our own behavior and have a loose standard toward the way we live our lives. We wonder what is wrong with our children, how did they become so rebellious, or why don’t they behave like we want them to behave?

There are several factors why children develop wrong behavior including family breakups, economic situations, wrong types of entertainment, peer pressure, etc. Basically children pattern themselves after their parent’s examples, or in the absence of good parental teachings, children pattern themselves after others around them. Parents often throw up their hands in despair and ask what did they do wrong in bringing up their children.

Are we, as parents, setting the right example for our children? There are some things we have control over and it can make a difference in our lives and our children’s lives. It’s how we entertain ourselves and how we allow our children to be entertained.

In this article, let’s address how much the entertainment sector is a part of our lives. It can affect the way we behave and how our children behave. Do we realize that there is a three-eyed monster which is called “Entertainment” that comes into a lot of our homes and is made welcome by all who live there. It sits where it wants to in our homes including our living/family rooms, bedrooms, kitchens, etc.

This monster even manages to travel with us in our cars, planes, boats, anywhere we go and anytime. All we have to do is open our doors and let it have full range because we have invited it into our homes to be with our family, sitting as close as it can get to each of us, especially our children.

How does this monster with three different outlets accomplish what it has set out to do, which is to get rid of what is left of the family unit after all the stresses of this life have taken its toll on us? How does it attack us and through what channels does it become part of our lives.

The first eye of the entertainment monster is the television set. Let us discuss how television entertainment has changed over the years and how it affects us in our everyday life. A few months ago, CBS celebrated an special anniversary and pro-duced a show commemorating many past shows. It made a lot of us keenly aware how it was to be innocent and enjoy all the comedy programs like “I Love Lucy”, “Father Knows Best”, “The Waltons”, “The Carol Burnett



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Personal Note

Hello Everyone,

I hope winter is not too harsh for those who live in the colder climates. I live where it's always a contrast. There is a saying around St. Louis, MO that goes like this: "If you don't like the weather right now, just wait a little while and it will change." One day it will be so hot and a day later a cool front comes in from the North. Our fall and winter has been like that so far this year. Sunny, warm and in the 70's one day and in a few days it cools down, rains and turn miserably cold. Last weekend it was nice and around 70 degrees. Today it's in the 30's, blowing wind, sleet and snow showers.

The fall holydays are gone but before we know it the spring holydays will be upon us. What a joy it is to look forward to the holydays. The world only has seasonal holidays including Christmas, Easter and Halloween during the year. And of course, there are Muslim and Hindu holidays and many other days that people celebrate. Nothing compares to the holydays we keep in honoring and worshipping our Heavenly Father and His Glorious Son, Jesus Christ. I look forward to that day in the future when all people will go up to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. The world will be at one at last!

Our country and many other countries are celebrating the beginning of another year, 2004. As we go into this new year, let us all pray for peace for this world, good health for everyone, and may we all prosper according to God's good will! And may the Kingdom of God be on the horizon!

Until next time,

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TWO SPECIAL BOYS



Jimmy is only six years old, but the California School District authorities have had enough of his behavior. Jimmy is "fearsome", bites and kicks his teachers and classmates. He has been removed from school.

But not for long. A federal judge ordered Jimmy to be placed back in. Jimmy can now do what he wants to do in his elementary school and with the blessing of the federal government, who has spent over \$135,000 in training special staffs to handle Jimmy, and for the costs of legal fees.

Raymond is a ten year old student in the Missouri school system. He is well-mannered, quiet and studious, but he has one problem. He prays silently and privately over his lunch at school. The school administrators and teachers have separated Raymond from his classmates and have subjected him to ridicule and scorn.

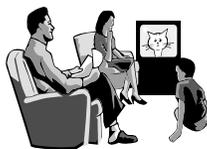


When he bowed his head and prayed silently over his lunch in the cafeteria, he was forcibly removed from his seat and sent to the principal's office. Unlike Jimmy, Raymond doesn't have the blessings of the federal government to back him up in this. Raymond's mother finally had to take him out of school to spare him more embarrassment and ridicule. The ACLU is ready to go to court to make sure that Raymond is not allowed back in any school to "disrupt" the learning environment.

Sadly, Jimmy and Raymond have one thing in common. Both will face a federal district court judge because of their "offensive" behavior. The same people who brought our schools to this warped sense of right and wrong will decide their fate. Is this insanity or what? And it goes on and on, in almost every part of our country.

(Originally published by The Christian Informer, July 1998)

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Show”, “Bob Hope Show”, “The Smothers Brothers”, “Little House on the Prairie”, and all the other wonderful shows that came along in the innocent years of television.

These days we sit in front of our television set watching and even laughing at shows like “Friends”, “The Simpsons”, etc.. Most television shows these days portray their characters as lying, cheating, murdering, people having adulterous affairs or fornication, deviant behavior such as between gays and lesbians (as in “Will and Grace”), etc. One recent episode of “Missing Without A Trace” was about a teenage boy who disappeared after he found out that his supposedly virginal girlfriend was engaging in a sex orgy. One scene showed a houseful of teens in different stages of undress and engaged in various deviate sex acts, leaving not much to the imagination. Even “family themed” shows picture a dysfunctional family usually with low moral values, parents arguing with each other and the children. In case you haven’t watched any TV comedy shows this season, most of the shows deal with the main characters shouting at each other until one of them gets the best of the other one as in “Everybody Loves Raymond”.



The reality shows are so absurd this year they defy description. Try watching “Fear Factor” without your stomach doing flip-flops or “Survivor”, which recently had one contestant lying and telling other contestants that his grandmother had just died so he could win by getting their sympathy vote.

Then there are the shows featuring explicit scenes of murders, sexual acts, and hospital operations with too much detail for most of us as portrayed in “ER” and “CSI”. There seems to be an endless supply of blood and gore this sea-son. Hopefully, not any of us are watching these shows while our precious little children are right there beside us, absorbing all that television fascination has for them.

This season has been the worst year yet for television producers to see how many filthy words they can spit out in one half hour program. Last year they started sneaking in a foul word here and there, but there seems to be no limit this year. Will they quit when they have used every filthy word they know and have shown the human body in its naked glory before us? Of course movies have been using x-rated scenes and words for quite awhile, but we have not invited them into our homes if we are actually trying to live a clean

moral Christian life. We should try to set the right example for our children by not watching these kind of programs.

There are some good educational programs, mostly on cable, and ever so often there is a good storyline that shows love, kindness, hard-working people sacrificing themselves for the good of others, but these programs are few and far between.

The second eye of the entertain-ment monster is the computer, and this form can be used for good or bad purposes. If we don’t teach our children the proper use of the computer, then we are falling down in our responsibilities as parents. There are fun computer games but there are also wretched games that people play and allow their children to participate in as we rush to use this latest tool to amuse ourselves and waste precious time in doing so.



Do we realize how we are slowly being conditioned to accept any behavior that man can come up with in this rush to busy and entertain ourselves? If we can’t resist these temptations even though we are watching actors or characters on television or on the computer, how can we expect our children to turn away from this kind of behavior which they have so innocently learned from the entertainment monsters that sit so conveniently in our homes.

Most people will say that they try to control what their children are doing, but in truth, many parents don’t take the time to monitor what their children are watch-ing on television or even on the far-reaching areas of the computer world. Too many parents will allow the television or computer to entertain their children because they don’t take the interest or time to check in with them. Children are sometimes left to themselves to determine how they will spend their spare time.

The third eye of the entertain-ment monster is the music indus-try, which has spent a lot of money convincing our children that they should buy the latest music video, compact or dvd disc so they can be entertained by the latest hot music coming along. Remember when television wouldn’t show Elvis below the waist because of his gyrating hips. That was quite tame compared to the music videos of today, which are mostly x-rated or should be. The



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Armor of God



Ephesians 6:11

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

Youth Bible Study: Ages 7-14

1. Read Ephesians 6:14-17-Write down the different pieces of armor mentioned in these verses. There are things mentioned that a Christian should do in order to put on the whole armor of God.

2. Read Eph. 6:18 - After we have put on the armor of God, what else do we need to do?

Write the names of the different pieces of armor below with the explanations of what they mean. Use the back of this page if you need more space. Also draw a picture of each piece of armor.

Name

Explanation

- | | | |
|----|-----------|-----------------|
| 1. | The sword | The Word of God |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |
| 4. | | |
| 5. | | |
| 6. | | |



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ARMOR OF GOD WORD PUZZLE

Find the words to fit in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all directions.

M	Y	Y	S	W	O	R	D	Q	T	B
T	K	T	L	L	R	K	S	K	M	R
M	N	R	C	L	F	H	Z	H	L	E
P	A	U	M	L	I	C	X	J	T	A
X	R	T	X	E	B	Q	C	X	K	S
Q	M	H	L	Z	L	D	H	V	X	T
T	O	D	N	T	E	M	L	E	H	P
M	R	K	N	K	C	L	X	T	N	L
N	Q	K	Q	R	H	T	I	A	F	A
P	E	A	C	E	W	Z	M	B	F	T
V	V	L	L	R	H	D	Y	C	R	E

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ARMOR
BREASTPLATE
FAITH
HELMET
PEACE
SHIELD
SWORD
TRUTH

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women dress very provocative, and almost all participants are crude and vulgar. The music is hot, heavy and for most of us unintelligible. But kids seem to know what the words are and what they mean. There are some great music videos and discs but you really have to check out the music your children are listening to and watching.

Sadly, there are some even in the church who are not aware that they participate in this insidious and morally wrong way of entertainment and waste of time. Then when their children exhibit wrong behavior they wonder how their children learned it.

Hopefully, all will wake up to how wrong kinds of entertainment can influence us and our children. **Make a checklist** of what type of entertainment programs you watch on television, games you play on the computer or other activities you use the computer for, and what kind of music you listen to (including music videos). Don't forget to check into what and how your children are being entertained.

Get rid of the three-eyed monster in your home by not participating in the wrong use of these entertainment forms. But don't make the mistake of throwing away your television, computer and music videos, discs and/or records, unless they are inappropriate. These forms of entertainment can still be used for the good of your family. You just have to **be vigilant** and make sure you **weed out** the wrong type of entertainment that your family is taking part in. **Visualize** in your mind and ask this question, “Would I be taking part in this kind of entertainment if Jesus Christ, Our Savior, was visiting with our family and sitting here with us right now?”

“The Paradoxical Commandments”

1. **People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered. Love them anyway.**
2. **If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. Do good anyway.**
3. **If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.**
4. **The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.**
5. **Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.**
6. **The biggest men and women with the biggest minds can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds. Think big anyway.**
7. **People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs. Fight for a few underdogs anyway.**
8. **What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.**
9. **People who really need help may attack you if you do help them. Help people anyway.**
10. **Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway.**



(From the Internet, Author Unknown)

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Shelby Faith
And YOU!!

“Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers” Proverbs 17:6

There are two ways to live your life.

One is to live your life like
nothing is a miracle.

The other is to live your life like
everything is a miracle.