

# 10 Reasons Why Your Kids' Favorite Shows Are Hurting Them

Presented by:





Media is a large part of our lives and our culture.

It has benefits; it can be good ol' fun entertainment, plus it can be a wonderful tool for learning. But on the flip side, media can be incredibly harmful to the raising of our families by introducing inappropriate concepts and presenting opposing values as truth.

Gone are the days when you could just turn on a cartoon for your kids and know it was safe. Instead, you need to seriously consider what each show is presenting as truthful, appropriate, and humorous - does the show line up with what your family believes?

Go through this list and consider your kids' favorite shows. You may need to bring some changes to your household based upon your values.

# 1 Bad Attitudes

Many movies and shows made for children feature young characters with bad attitudes, depicting these kids as disrespectful to adults and dishonoring toward their parents. The deceptive trick is these attitudes are played off as if they are fine and normal. Kids are great copycats; if they see the other kids (in the movies) acting in such ways, then those bad attitudes will begin to show up in your own child's behaviors.

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.  
- Exodus 20:12 NKJV

# Negative Portrayal of Parents

# 2

Often parents are portrayed in a very negative light in children's shows. Dads are either cold and insensitive or an irresponsible idiot. Moms are overbearing or over-protective. Normally these negative aspects are dressed in humor; the dad may be a bumbling idiot but at least he is so funny. If our kids continually feed on programs that portray parents in such a negative light, those ideals will begin to shape what they believe a mom or a dad should be.

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.  
- Ephesians 6:4 NKJV

## 3

## Crude Humor

Humor is good, humor is fun. But many children's films lower themselves to such a low form of humor. To be blunt, poop, fart, and butt jokes litter their films, and some even go as far as using sexual innuendoes as jokes. Using crude humor is a cheap way of making someone laugh just because it's not a common topic of conversation. I would rather have my kid learn the art of humor, which involves wit, timing, body language, and creative wording, not just crude talk about body parts.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

- Philippians 4:8 NKJV

## Lack of Artistic Excellence

## 4

Filmmaking is an art form, the way of expressing a story in a creative way. Look back at all the films made 70 years ago, both cartoon and live action. The lighting, the color, and the shot composition are all done with excellence in the art form. While most major films produced nowadays are made with excellence, there are numerous shows and video content thrown at our kids that display little, if any, artistic excellence. Animated films made with crude shapes to create characters, chaos and drama to cover for lack of storytelling, and more instrumental noise than instrumental melody are just some of the issues. I once heard an executive of a big-name streaming service say, "Kids will watch any rubbish that we give them". Yes, kids will watch whatever we give them, but that doesn't mean we should just give them rubbish. If all we give our kids is the lowest quality of this art form, that will only hurt the level of excellence they put into the art they pursue.

Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.

- Daniel 6:3 NKJV

## 5

## Perception of Pace and Excitement of Life

This one mainly has an effect on children under the age of five. Anything naturally occurring in our world is slow. Crops take months to grow until harvest, fruit trees take years. As adults we know things take time - 9 months for baby to come, 10 weeks for the garden to start producing, 12 hours to make the perfect slow-cooked brisket. Sometimes life is slow, sometimes life is boring, but that's not what those shows tell our kids. A lot of popular children's shows are fast paced, with quick moving storylines, no sense of time passage, extremely fast cuts in the edit, lots of colors, lots of noises, lots of music, and plenty of "fun". These types of shows can be quite damaging to young viewers. In the early developing years of a child, their perceptions of how the world works and how life is supposed to be are being set in the connections of their growing brain. Studies have shown that consumption of fast-paced, over-stimulating shows can lead to ADD or other attention span difficulties for children under five years of age.

Be still, and know that I am God.  
- Psalm 46:10 NKJV

## Evolution

## 6

The theory of evolution is subtly presented in many genres as fact. Evolution is just a theory; it is not proven, it has many holes in it, and it takes a lot of blind faith to believe in its possibility. Despite it being a theory, many educational shows present it as fact, often stating it took millions of years for these things to evolve (by chance). Those are lies being told to our children that directly contradict the Genesis account of creation. If a lie is said often enough as fact, eventually kids will believe it.

In the beginning  
God created the heavens and the earth.  
- Genesis 1:1 NKJV

## 7

## Normalization of Bad Lifestyles

Never before has the normalization of lifestyles, behaviors, and beliefs been so far reaching (and effective) as it is with today's media and technology. Films present bad lifestyles and behaviors as normal over and over again to their viewers, until it becomes normal to the viewer. For example, towards the beginning of the sexual revolution, James Bond made it normal for him to sleep with any woman he wanted with no consequences for his choices. Fast forward 50 years and sleeping around with whoever you want is fairly normal in our society. Hollywood keeps normalizing bad lifestyles; they just do it in more subtle ways in movies for the family.

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

- 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV

## Follow Your Heart

## 8

It's a pretty common message or theme in movies to follow your heart (especially in media produced by Disney).

That's a dangerous teaching because to follow your heart would mean to make decisions based on what you FEEL is right. Are important life decisions supposed to be made from feelings, desires, and inclinations? We are fallen and sinful, and susceptible to making bad decisions on our own. We are not supposed to follow our heart but are told to guard our heart in Psalm 4:23. Teach your kids not to follow their own heart, but to follow Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life.

The heart is deceitful above all things,  
and desperately wicked.

- Jeremiah 17:9a NKJV

## 9 Witchcraft & Sorcery

Magic is very prevalent in movies today and even holds a place in some of the oldest Disney films. It seems like harmless storytelling, but God takes witchcraft very seriously. In fact, the penalty for practicing witchcraft under the Mosaic Law was death (Exodus 22:18, Leviticus 20:27). God did not want anyone to be messing around with witchcraft. There are only two sources of spiritual power: God and Satan. Witchcraft is Satan's realm, and he excels in counterfeiting what God does. When Moses performed miracles before Pharaoh, the magicians did the same things through demonic power (Exodus 8:7). The use of witchcraft and sorcery is for control, power, and domination. Those abilities belong only to the Lord. Even though magic is normally fantasy in films, it is truly based on witchcraft. The portrayal of witchcraft in films becomes dangerous when magic is used by the good people for good. That only communicates to viewers that sources of power and control by way of partnering with the demonic realm is fine if used for good. Whether it's witches, wizards, sorcerers, wickens, magicians, or practices of the mystic arts in fun movies, be wary of the possible danger to your kids.

There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or daughter pass through the fire [as a sacrifice], one who uses divination and fortune-telling, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who casts a charm or spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or a necromancer [who seeks the dead].

- Deuteronomy 18:10-11 Amplified

## 10 Secular Worldview

Every film out there has someone's worldview directly connected to it. If it comes out of Hollywood, it probably holds a very Godless, secular worldview. All of the messages, outcomes, responses, consequences (or lack of), and interactions in these films are done through the secular worldview of the makers. If the writer believes there are no good parents, then in his screenplay there will be no positive display of parents. If the director believes all Christians are hypocrites, then the Christian will be portrayed negatively in his film. People's beliefs are communicated in the stories they tell... and they are telling their stories to our kids. Even as subtle as they may be, if left unchecked, our family may unknowingly be adopting the beliefs of perfect strangers.

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

- Colossians 2:8 NKJV





Quick tips  
for making  
good media  
choices for  
your family

1

Just because it's animated does not mean it's made for kids.

2

Watch what they watch.

3

Talk about what happened in what they watched (the good and the bad).

4

Don't let the TV run all day.

5

Don't put a TV in your child's room.

6

Read a review by a trusted source before watching something new.

7

Pray about your media choices.

8

Invest in clean, wholesome content (buying faith-based films helps make more faith-based films).

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