

Is Hollywood Corrupting Our Children

Modern Movies

They say that if you throw a frog into a pot of hot water, he will immediately jump out. However, if you put that same frog into the same pot with lukewarm water and slowly bring the temperature up, the frog will sit in the water with no sense of danger, and be boiled to death.

I often remember the frog story while talking to family and friends about things that are happening in our society and in the family in particular. I marvel at the acceptance, and often the complete and enthusiastic conformity, of something that in years past would have horrified them. It is as though they feel that nothing has changed. When you mention the horrible things that are taking place, more often than not, they look at you as though you are a person who is out of step with the times — one who is a fanatic or one who is naive and uninformed.

Hollywood has done an extremely good job of lulling our Christian consciences to sleep. Most of us thought the movie industry was just out there making movies for profit by entertaining us. However, in reality they were and are using the movies to spread their atheistic and immoral philosophy. Then what happens? We gradually, ever so gradually, adopt their ideas and beliefs as our own, and once we do that, we are willing to fight to defend them. Yes, we turn our fury on Christ and His Church to be part of this new and exciting society, a society that has no place for Christ with His outdated moral values.

A Bad Word

If my memory serves me correctly, I believe the word was *damn*, and the movie was *Gone with the Wind*. It was said that people were so outraged that they got up and left the theater. Complaints went out from all across America because of that one word. Why was there such an outcry of disapproval—was it fanaticism, or the response of an ignorant society? Were these people just bigoted fault finders? This response was a practical response, coming from a society that for the most part, wanted to hold on to a high standard of decency. It was a society with faults, no doubt, but it also was a society that wanted to have entertainment that was morally healthy, for both children and adults.

Contrast this with what we see and hear in the movies today. Do we not see and hear things that would have embarrassed the crudest of men back in those days? Now I ask you to ponder these questions: Do you consider yourself a good person? Do you consider yourself a good Christian? If so, then why are you not scandalized at what is a thousand-time worse than what caused so many people to walkout in protest just a few decades ago?

Social Engineering

I was watching a movie recently (in fact this movie is the primary reason for this pamphlet) in which a forty-year-old man had just gone through his second divorce and decided to return home to live with his mother. His reasoning was that something must have gone wrong with his early childhood that caused him to be unable to hold on to a wife.

Toward the end of the movie, this immature forty-year-old man who was a writer, found out that his mother was also a writer, but failed to pursue a writing career. This revelation shocked him, for he knew nothing at all of this fact. The following is a quotation from the movie:

“Why did you not use this talent?” “Your father talked me out of it.” “Why would he do that?” “Well you know, Dear, in those days women did not have careers. She just . . .” At this point the son interrupted. *“She just raised kids that she ended up hating for ruining her life and killing her chances at doing the one thing she loved.”* The mother responded. *“Well, my goodness, I never heard it put exactly like that. But yes, I am afraid that is true.”*

If we analyze this one short portion of an entire movie, which was billed as a comedy, you can see the social engineering. This mind-altering dialog lasted less than a minute, yet it communicated to the audience a completely un-Christian way of looking at a mother-child relationship.

No longer is the child viewed as a gift from God, no, not in today’s materialistic society. In today’s world, the child is viewed as a source of bondage, a source of entrapment, a source of enslavement.

With the movie industry waging an all out war on motherhood and the traditional family, is there any wonder why so many supposedly good Catholics and Christians of all beliefs are now embracing the idea of mothers leaving the home and seeking a career away from the children God has entrusted to their care?

Now this movie is not just an isolated case. It is not just a silly movie produced only for entertainment and the acquisition of money. We all know that money is a powerful motive for the movie industry. However, money is a powerful motivating force in our life also, so money making is not the problem. The problem with Hollywood is the mind-altering way they are pulling the public away from its Christian ethics. The immoral lifestyles of those in Hollywood are being portrayed as normal and good, and any reference to the Christian lifestyle is often portrayed as backward and bigoted. Our young people are especially vulnerable to this twisted and warped way of looking at family life.

One actress, who as a youth played as an honorable young woman, recently chose to be pictured in *Playboy Magazine*. The reason was that she wanted to distance herself from what they call the squeaky clean image that she had. In Hollywood, to be a moral person is taboo. Parents must attack this sinister plot against their children, skillfully, and intelligently if they are to succeed. Loud mouthed, emotional parents drive their children away from virtue and into the arms of the worldly. Their fanatical response to evil proves to the children that religion is fanatical, and since fanatical people are usually not very happy, why would a child want to listen to an unhappy fanatical parent? The people on the big screen seem to be having so much fun and seem to be far happier than mom and dad.

Adolescence, by its very nature, is prone to excitement and adventure. It almost disdains the calm and steady lifestyle. Yes, excitement is a natural driving force in our youth. Nevertheless, this force must be guided by parents in a healthy and morally acceptable way.

Now this defiant drive is not something new. Young people throughout the ages have been rebellious in one way or another. However, in the past, our youth were not continually bombarded with such immoral behavior. Today, they live in an almost constant climate of seduction.

On a TV talk show, four women were discussing children. They got on the subject of overpopulation. (Which we know is a myth.) One of the women commented on large families as littering. These women see children as litter, while the Church sees children as gifts from God. Which of these beliefs will your children embrace?

With the gradual decline in moral values of the motion picture and television industry, and the seemingly unawareness of parents to the problem, our children are fair game for this deliberate and cunning immoral indoctrination. What chance do our young people have when exposed to movies that feature the most beautiful women and the most macho men, using all their acting abilities to arouse the passions of their viewers? One would have to be completely brain-dead not to be aroused after watching such seductive movies. Our youth haven't a chance. They are almost doomed to a life of immorality, a life that emulates what they witnessed on the screen. There is an old saying that went something like this: *"When you first encounter evil, you deplore it. If you linger around it, you then tolerate it. If you linger longer, you will then embrace it."* We have embraced the evils of Hollywood, and are now justifying our unholy embrace.

The Sad Reckoning

The little understood fact is that families are truly being destroyed by the movie industry. Now to say that the movie industry is the only problem, would be completely naive. However, it definitely plays a massive role in the way people have come to think and believe about sexual behavior in today's society.

As mentioned before, society as a whole has bought into sexual promiscuity to such an extent, they actually believe a moral Christian lifestyle is impossible. Even supposedly good Catholic parents have adjusted their thinking to accommodate their own sexual misconduct as well as that of their children.

In counseling, I often tell people that sin is fun, at which I often get a somewhat shocked look, for most of the people I advise are what one might call good moral people. For me to say that sin is fun, seems to them quite out of place. Good parents often talk and act as though sin is disgusting and for the most part just bad. To the young, this attitude just proves that mom and dad are out of touch with reality. However, if parents would concede to their children that sexual sin is fun, *which it definitely is, for if it were not we would not have a society mired in fornication, adultery, and homosexuality*; children would better understand their own sexuality, and realize that sex is beautiful when used according to God's precepts. One may marvel at

Christians who can convince themselves that their sexual sins are justifiable, but not the homosexual's. Though the homosexual act is an abuse of man's sexuality, sin is still sin—we just sin in different ways. We must remember Christ's words: *When much has been given, much will be expected in return.* Responsibility goes with knowledge.

We Christians should ponder the meaning behind the above words. We should also ask ourselves these questions: have they given us much? Have we been in the world yet not of the world, as Sacred Scripture exhorts us to be? Have we been the source of contradiction, the light that dispels the darkness? Or have we been the cause of our fellow Christians losing their way by our justification of our own acceptance of the world and its sinful ways? Do we periodically question ourselves as to the direction we are heading? Are our days spent in the service of God and those He sends into our lives for light and understanding? Are we changing the world for the better, or have we come to look so much like the world that the world calls us its own?

Conclusion

The choice is ours. We can take this little pamphlet and file it in the waste basket, or in another place of disposal, yawn and mumble to ourselves a few words of wisdom especially formulated to completely discredit anything that struck a nerve. This is the way we shield ourselves from responsibility that we choose not to accept. We like to blur the facts, confuse the situation, and if all else fails, criticize the bearer of the unwanted reality.

These are extremely trying times and we often feel that it is beyond our capabilities as parents to fight the good fight. We fear turning the kids against us if we do try to protect them from the world's rubbish. Often parents feel quite helpless, so in an effort to appease their taunting conscience, they turn a blind eye and go along to get along, and often not only abandon those who are still fighting the good fight, but sad to say, actually start to criticize them. Guilt will often do this.

The solution will not be easy. It will take true and authentic Christianity to solve this crisis. When I say true Christianity, I am referring to a life that conforms to the moral behavior dictated by Sacred Scripture and not a watered down mockery of morality.

We need couples who, before getting married, are determined to live a moral life; Couples who truly believe in the authenticity of Christianity. We need couples who not only know their faith, but believe in it strongly. Such couples know that they have to be different and will be viewed by their peers as being different. Their children from the earliest days will be taught Christian customs by the everyday activities of the family. Their faith in no way will be a pretense.

To succeed, couples must by word and example teach their children the value of a life lived for Christ. They must instruct them in the ways of the world so as to combat the world. They must have the answers before they ever have the question presented to them. And yes, some may fall, but they will know that they have fallen, unlike the uneducated worldly youth who are unaware that the problems they are encountering are the byproducts of a sinful life. The effort the good parent put into training their children will prepare them to better cope with the carnal environment that they will most surely encounter. They will better understand the value of a strong character, and will more likely have the wisdom and fortitude to avoid the near occasion of sin.

Their children will be well read and able to defend their beliefs in a logical manner, for they will know that a fanatical faith rarely persuades anyone. They will become a force for good, and they will be the instruments God will use to help bring the lost back. They will truly be a blessing to their parents, for they will give honor to their parents by the dignity and moral ethics by which they live. Christ never said it would be easy, but He did promise us His divine help. However, we must ask for that help, and then put His words into action.

Finally we must never forget these sobering words, ***“It is not those who say, ‘Lord, Lord,’ but those who do the will of the Father.”***