

Who's Raising the Children?

By Tony Melton

An educator said, "Our children are being turned over to electronic parents." Who are these parents? They are television actors, many of whom, give our kids a new and different heritage by ridiculing our values. Surely, conscientious parents would not invite a bunch of strangers into their home and turn their children over to them. But is that not exactly what we often do when we use the TV as a baby-sitter?

If "Hollywood" raises our children, we should not expect them to have higher moral values than Hollywood has. The Bible says, "Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits" (1 Corinthians 15:33). TV teaches our children sex without guilt, by glorifying sex outside of wedlock or in an adulterous relationship. TV jolts our children emotionally by flashing violent acts before them; these same acts are then often portrayed as acceptable behavior. TV also teaches them that homosexuality is just another acceptable alternate lifestyle. This constant bombardment of sexual innuendoes, as well as blatant sexual sin, violence, and ridicule of family values can have a numbing effect on both parents and children.

Often parents are very concerned about whom their children's friends are. They understand clearly the influence that a delinquent child can have on their son or daughter. On the other hand, they do not seem to worry about the hours of mental communion their children have with Hollywood every day. Solomon wrote, "He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed" (Proverbs 13:20). A constant exposure to evil companionship will damage our children's moral values whether it is by personal contact with evil friends or through the television industry.