

Of Seeds and Flowers

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All the flowers, of all the tomorrows
are in the seeds of today.

Have you ever tried to nail Jello to a wall? No matter what kind of nail or tool you use it doesn't work. Have we been trying to nail Jello to the wall for the last five decades by giving many excuses and alternate plans for not properly raising our children? I have spent 40 years in high school education both as a principal and teacher and I have seen wonderful things, like students getting up at 4 a.m. to pray and some VERY BAD things, like students deliberately cutting themselves with razor blades or even committing suicide.



Have we fooled ourselves by using clever language that slips from our tongues to ease our consciences, which when spoken, over and over, and loudly, becomes the truth. Like, "It takes a whole village to raise a child." "Children are very resilient." "Latch Key Kids" or "Day Care Centers" with names that sound like school or a fun - "The Learning Center" or "A children's playcenter". I just saw an ad for "The Discovery Center - WHERE EVERY CHILD IS SPECIAL AND LEARNING IS FUN". Then there is "QUALITY TIME". "Quality Time" - is that great American rationalization for neglecting children and trying to feel good about it. **"Love is a four-letter word spelled TIME."**



**There is NO
Right way
to do a
WRONG
thing...**

Louis T. Grant in 2005 wrote an incisive article called "Fast Folk", which appeared in "Harper's" magazine, a periodical published since 1850, that details the lifestyle of one working mother that was presented as a model of sorts. *"She rushes from home to work in the morning, eating yogurt in the car for breakfast; has lunch at the gym where she works out; leaves child care to her husband, who also has a managerial position 40 miles on the other side of home; pilots a small plane in her leisure time for pleasure; teaches, on the side, a class at a local women's college; leaves the kids with Grandma; leaves the kids with sitters; leaves the kids with..."* Grant likens this lifestyle, which he calls "fast folk", to keeping up with the gerbils. There is no time for family, for husband, for intimacy, for communication, for listening, for CHILDREN. That is for slowpokes. And he points out our, **"Children are slowpokes"**. No time for silence in this woman's life and so her inner life is fragmented. She has no real power and so she is nurturing no one, NOT EVEN HERSELF. In 2024 more parents will die from success than from cancer. "Stressed" spelled backwards is "desserts". **America, the country that pretends to care for its children.**



If you think I am over stating my case let's fast forward to the current issue of Harper's magazine, an essay entitled "*The case against children*" by Elizabeth Barber and see for yourself how our society has exploded in just 15 years: **HOLD ONTO YOUR HAT, YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS.** There are no more intellectual guardrails; people in our society now believe and saying every outrageous thing they think.

Harper's magazine March 2024: "In the summertime, Alex and Dietz decided to take a road trip. The two had met years earlier on Instagram, as fellow animal-rights activists, and had discovered that they agreed on much more than veganism. Actually, they agreed on basically everything, including that new human life is not a gift but a needless perpetuation of suffering. Babies grow up to be adults, and adulthood contains loneliness, rejection, drudgery, hopelessness, regret, grief, and terror. Even grade school contains that much pain. Why put someone through that, Alex and Dietz agreed, when a child could just as well never have known existence at all? (The author has had two abortions) The unborn do not appear to be moaning at us from the void, petitioning to be let into life. This idea—that having children is unethical—has come to be known as **antinatalism...**"

Alex and Dietz, the young couple in this essay, with donors, fund billboards that say things like, "**MAKE LOVE NOT BABIES**" or "**PROCREATION IS NOT A RESPONSIBILITY**". A bumper sticker I saw last week said: "**NO PEOPLE, MORE CATS**". This is nihilism at its best - no morality, no hope, no future, and a depressing present etc.. Will there even be children in 2034? In "church speak", we ask the question "Will there be any baptisms? First communions? Confirmations? Or people in the pews without gray hair? Will there be a need for Catholic schools? What will a "no-child" society look like? China? Japan? Who is responsible for this sickness? In a few years you will find that **NOONE** will raise their hand and say, "**I DID IT!**" This essay from Harper's is like watching a 50-car pileup on the interstate and everyone pretending it's not a big deal.

I must stop here and interject the truth that in the end, **WE WIN!** If we win, then the battle strategy in this kind of crazy warfare is simply **DON'T QUIT. KEEP ON GOING**, no matter what insanity looks like!

The core questions I find myself asking after reading these articles from Harper's are: "**Who is raising and educating the children? Have we intentionally decided to raise a lost generation by our actions and lack of action?**" Children need care, they need time, serious personal time, one on one time, love, and adult/parental wisdom. **BE IT ALSO KNOWN:** There are no perfect parents just as there are no perfect children. But there are some elementary, **ESSENTIAL - YOU CAN'T DO WITHOUT FOR REAL GROWTH** - rules, prescripts, practices etc. that **MUST** be observed to say one has done a good job parenting.

If everyone is thinking alike, then somebody isn't thinking.
- George S. Patton

I do know that for some women, just like for some men, that work fulfills all of their absolute needs for purpose and meaning in their lives, - not to work would drive them crazy! - **Captains of industry** that sacrifice everything for the workplace! Not good for male or female. The questions I ask are: **Can you actually have it all and not sacrifice your job for your family or your family for your job?**

"We now know all that we need to know about raising happy, well-adjusted mature children and if we did this for one generation we could change the world."

- Charles Wahl, University of Southern California



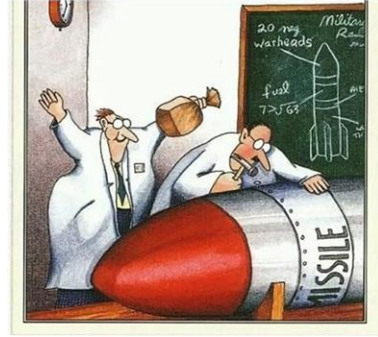
Why don't we do this??? What hinders us from doing this? What ideas? What pride? What motivations? What unspoken conditioning??



Children are "Hardwired" for God and Community

A study, "*Hardwired to Connect - The New Scientific Case for Authoritative Communities*", conducted by researchers from Harvard and Dartmouth Universities has concluded that children have two profound needs: a deep connection with others and moral and spiritual meaning in their lives.

Two of the researchers, Dr. Katherine Kovner-Kline from Dartmouth Medical School and Bill Stanczykiewicz, CEO of the Indiana Youth Institute. In a T.V. interview they noted that one in five American children now has emotional problems such as depression, anxiety, substance abuse, or hyperactivity, were asked whether these conditions are related to the absence of spirituality and community. The researchers said that there is evidence that the brains of children are hardwired with the need for community, morality and spirituality and that the children who have these gifts are often protected from emotional problems. -and even like suicide.

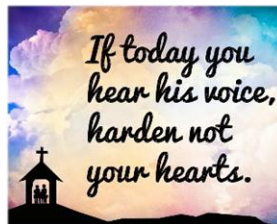


They have discovered that levels of stress hormones are lower in children whose lives have these resources, the researchers said, and the lack of these supports can adversely affect a child's physical and emotional well-being. Noting that most children used to grow up with some religious training and family support, the researchers were asked when things started to change. Bill Stanczykiewicz said in the last 30 to 40 years, or two and three generations there has been a serious decline in parents and schools sharing such resources.



Asked what parents can do to help children meet these needs, Dr. Kovner-Kline said that in order to have quality time with one's children, there also needs to be **QUANTITY TIME**. What is needed, she said "is a particular form of **REGULAR** engagement that is both warm and nurturing and affectionate but also has expectations and limits."

Mr. Stanczykiewicz added that, since 86% of American teenagers say they believe in God, parents need to acknowledge their children's perception of a higher power guiding their lives. **Not to do 'this is parental malpractice.'** If parents do not meet the need for God and community, this natural impulse is diverted to other, far less satisfying and far more dangerous ends. -and so our failing culture!



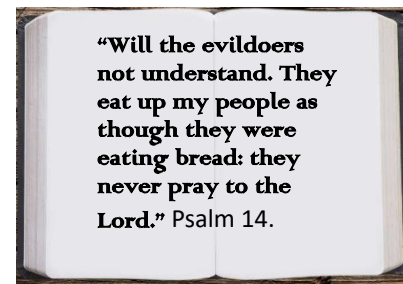
Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today. Drill them into your children. Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest.

Billy Graham's Prayer for Our Nation "Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil, good,' but that is exactly what we have done. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery or casino. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called it choice. We have shot policemen and abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem. We have abused power, ruined reputations, built debt and called it politics. We have been misled by the media and called it reporting. We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have pretended to care for children and called it liberation and career building. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment. Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen!"



GOD HAS TO BE A PART OF THIS IF WE ARE GOING TO DO THE TRUTH THAT TRULY FREES. I do know that too many people, especially children, are being hurt, generations to come are being hurt. Why are things in our schools, our society, the way they are and getting worse. In the future, every other person that graduates from college will have to be a psychologist, counselor, or social worker to cover the next generation's needs. EVERYONE YOU TALK TO THAT DEALS WITH PEOPLE OR JUST CHILDREN KNOWS SOMETHING VERY SERIOUS IS WRONG. To say nothing of the children who are being forced to decide their gender before they can multiply 7X6. - or the adults/doctors who are deciding for them. The Woke People are reportedly showing all kinds of depression and psychological problems. Nontruth, non-God kills the psyche.



REMEMBER: In 4 GENERATIONS, NOONE, NOT ONE PERSON, will remember your name. We ALL are just travelers passing through caring for the earth and the highest part of our creation, OUR CHILDREN. Will your children and grandchildren be happy YOU were here? We are very much in favor of celebrating women, femininity, motherhood, and women's fulfillment but we are also for children and the place God meant for adults in the lives of children. TRUTH IN ALL THINGS IS THE MAGIC WORD!

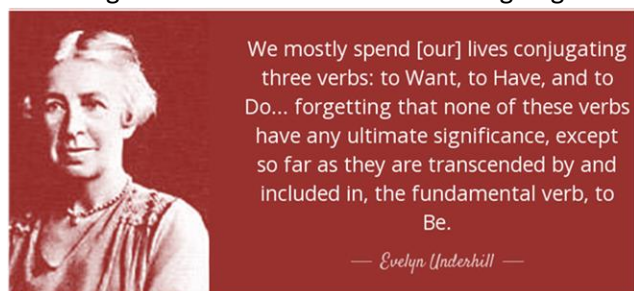


"Father. Lord of heaven and earth, I praise you for what you have hidden from the learned and the clever, you have revealed to the merest children; Father, you have willed it so." "Unless you become like little children you cannot enter the Kingdom of heaven."

Thomas Dewey, the Father of Public schools, made sure our schools became social institutions, slowly taking away responsibility and power and the right of parents to educate their own children. -or to, at least, have a say in their children's schooling. Too many of our schools and colleges have become social institutions of indoctrination. Is there hope for the morally upside-down world of American universities? This is one of the worse times to be a child.

As an aside but relevant: Everyone agrees that children reflect the values and mores, etc., of their parents. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has "parents" too!! And those parents (Google, etc.) are clearly anti-Christian, racist, politically correct, etc.. These "parents" of AI are giving birth to a generation of "children" that are going to become very bad "kids". UNCONTROLABLE!

Napoleon once asked, "When does the education of a child begin?" And the answer he received was: "Twenty years before the child's birth with the education and Christian life of the mother."



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