



SEPTEMBER 2014

Purposeful Parenting
Connecting Church and Family
Deut.6:7

Being Holy in an Unholy and Distracting World

I don't think many of us would argue with the fact that our world tends to be an unholy and distracting place. As parents, I don't have to convince you that we are fighting a battle for our children's hearts. The enemy is extremely good at what he does. His goal is to distract us from the best that God has for us. And he will use whatever means necessary to not only distract us but to destroy us. And not only us, but our children.

As we consider media and technology for our families, we have to realize that we are called to be Holy in all that we do. Peter encourages us to remember in 1 Peter 1:15 that "just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do." So, in everything we do whether watching a movie, playing a video game or commenting on someone's post on Facebook we are called to be holy.

So, how does that translate to us as parents? What do you want for your kids? What would you love to see them become? What impact would you love to see them make in this world? What would be so exciting to see God do through them? The possibilities of what God can use your kids to do it endless. He can use them to change the world! But, media and technology can be a distraction or weight to our kids. It can make it difficult to function and they cannot follow the path that God has for them because they are distracted and weighed down.

You see, our job as parents is to set up boundaries to help our children grow into responsible adults and to produce and eventually release them as spiritual leaders. Hebrews 12:1 gives us a little insight into that.

Hebrews 12:1 - "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, **let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles**, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

God tells us to throw off everything that hinders us from living the life that He has for us. If we don't set up boundaries for our children in which they can freely roam and explore, they may find themselves in places where they don't want to be.

Is technology and media inherently bad? No. As long as it doesn't hinder us or entangle us in sin. There are four E's of media; Exalting, Edifying, Empty, and Evil. These give us a great grid through which we can evaluate the media choices that our family is making. And as we evaluate our media, we have to remember that what we do in moderation, our kids will do in excess. So we must evaluate our own personal media choices as well because what our kids see us doing speaks much louder than what they hear us say. We must be living out the life we want to be seeing in them. We are in effect saying the words of Paul from 1 Corinthians to our children, "Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ."

So, how do we set up boundaries for our kids? There are many different resources and ideas out there to help you. Two quick ways are:

- 1) Installing an internet filter in your home is an excellent way to allow only certain media and information to come into your home. These filters block unwanted content based on the criteria that you put in. And most filtering software contains accountability as well which will notify someone (through email or text) that certain content has been attempted to be accessed. This is important to help foster communication and dialog between you and your kids.

- 2) Charging your devices in a central location, not in a bedroom. At night, have a set time that the devices must be placed at the charging location. This keeps kids from staying up all night long

accessing media or communicating with other people. And as parents we can help set the example by doing the same. This allows everyone to get better rest as well as it helps us avoid the dangers of accessing media in the middle of the night alone in a bedroom.

Whatever boundaries you choose to set up for your family, please be knowledgeable about what media your kids are interacting with. A little bit of knowledge can go a long way in helping us fight to keep our kids from being weighed down by media & technology and help them flourish with the lives that God has for them

-Aaron Parks, Sunday Morning 34 Director

Family Tool Box

Resources on navigating technology

Books

[Tech Savvy Parenting](#) - Brian Houseman

Articles

[Parenting in the Technology Age](#)

[How to Protect Children Online \(Younger Kids\)](#)

[How to Protect Teens and Tweens Online](#)

Internet Filters

www.netnanny.com

www.avg.com

www.opendns.com

Movies/TV/Video Game Ratings

www.pluggedin.com

www.esrb.com

www.commonensemedia.org

What's Happening?

Calendar of Events: September-October

September 6: **Next Gen**, 7th-12th grade students worship with families, 5:00 and 6:45 pm, Worship Center

September 13: **Parent-Child Dedication**, both services

October 18: **Parenting Principles**, 5:00 - 7:30 pm, Family Center Auditorium

Stay Connected



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Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

- Deuteronomy 6:7

