

Threats to the Family

On July 1 of this year, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus posted a video online of a song titled "We're Coming for Your Children." The song contains the following words:

"You think that we'll corrupt your kids, if our agenda goes unchecked, Funny, just this once, you're correct. We'll convert your children, Happens bit by bit. Quietly and subtly. And you will barely notice it. ... We'll convert your children. We'll make them tolerant and fair."

"Your children will care about fairness and justice for others. Your children will work to convert all their sisters and brothers. Then soon we're almost certain, your kids will start converting you!"

"The gay agenda is coming home. The gay agenda is here! ...

"We'll convert your children. Someone's gotta teach them not to hate. We're coming for them. We're coming for your children. We're coming for them. We're coming for them. We're coming for your children."

Do any of you find those lyrics a bit troubling? Do you relish the idea of homosexuals teaching your children about tolerance and fairness? Do you think the members of the SFGMC have the moral standing to teach anyone about morality? Do you believe them when they say that they are targeting your children? You should, because that's exactly what they are doing.

Homosexuals intentionally targeting your children is only one example of the challenges facing the Christian family today. Many corrupt and warped people are coming for our children. They want to win them over to the wrong side. And in many cases, they are succeeding.

Homosexuals and others have been successfully converting children to their agenda. Studies have shown that a shocking number of children raised in Christian homes do not accept the Christian faith or do not retain it later in life. According to recent statistics:

- A staggering 61% of today's young adults who were regular church attendees as children are now "spiritually disengaged." They are not actively attending church, praying, or reading their Bibles.

- Only 20% of those who were spiritually active during high school maintain a similar level of commitment as an adult.¹
- Studies also found that children begin to leave the Christian faith long before they get to college. Many times, children from Christian homes begin questioning the basic teachings of Christianity in jr. high and HS.

The highest goal as Christian parents is to see our children saved and serving the Lord. Our goal is to pass the faith down to the next generation. There are many threats against the family today that are hindering that from happening.

One of the major responsibility of parents is to protect their children from threats that would harm them. Some of these threats are physical, but many more of these threats are spiritual, social/cultural, technical, and political.

Part of my responsibility is to warn you and sound the alarm about these threats. Most of us are probably aware of some of these threats against the family. But perhaps we are not taking these threats seriously. So today I want to consider several of the threats to the family that we should be aware of and that we must protect our families against.

I've organized these threats into four categories: spiritual, social/cultural, technical, and political. These are threats against the family as a whole and against children in particular.

I. Spiritual threats against the family

John 10:10 *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...*

1Pe 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

- A. The family was the first institution established by God, and it's the first institution Satan attacked. Churches are only as strong as the families that make up the church. Civilizations are only as strong as the families that make up that civilization. As the family goes, so goes the country. So if Satan or other evil forces can break up the family, it also helps to break up the church, the country, and the civilization.
- B. The world, the flesh, and the devil are our enemies, not only personally, but also as a family. Spiritual wickedness in high places wants to tear down the Christian family.

¹ Ken Hamm, *Already Gone* <https://answersingenesis.org/church/already-gone/>

- C. The biggest spiritual threat against the family is the idea that the modern family does not need to follow biblical principles pertaining to the family. For example, we commonly hear today that --
1. A couple can live like they are married even if they are not. I.e., you don't have to wait until you get married. If you feel like it, live with someone without the benefit of marriage.
 2. Parents don't need to be married. You can have children without being married. It's totally normal.
 3. Homosexual relationships are normal and good. There should be no stigma attached to it.
 4. Same-sex people can be married. Homosexual marriage is normal.
 5. If the marriage doesn't work, just get a divorce. Your own personal happiness is most important, so if your marriage is not working for you, terminate it and try again with someone else.
 6. Family can be anything you want it to be. You don't have to follow old fashioned, outdated standards. Do your own thing.

These are the kinds of messages we hear all around us. The basic message is, "Forget the Bible; ignore God's will; do your own thing."

- D. And young people in our families and in our churches are influenced by this way of thinking. This is a spiritual struggle. Even the church is now promoting unbiblical and evil ideas about the family.

Illus.: I read an account the other day about a dad who sent his 6-year-old son off to a church day camp, and the child came back asking if it were true that boys can marry boys and girls can marry girls. The child got that information at a church day camp!

When the father confronted the director of the camp, he replied that the school does not "promote same sex relationships but we don't demote them either." He insisted: "If it's a loving relationship, it's okay with us. We are inclusive here."²

What are 6-year-olds supposed to think when a trusted authority tells them that same-sex relationships are appropriate? And why in the world are they talking about such things with 6-year-olds?

² Patrick Hampton, "When Same-Sex Indoctrination Hits Home: Our Summer Camp Story." <https://patriotpost.us/>

BTW, this happened at an Episcopal camp, not one that we would recommend.

- E. So the biblical teaching of one man and one woman establishing a life-long, exclusive marriage covenant is becoming more rare and unusual all the time. The idea that the proper form of the family is a mother, father, and children is now seen as oppressive and backward.

Illus.: You perhaps heard that our secretary of transportation, Pete Buttigieg, and his same-sex partner, are adopting a baby. The two men announced the fact that they are “expecting” a baby just like any married couple would do. Except that two men cannot produce a baby; they have to get that baby from elsewhere. We are supposed to pretend that this is normal and good. It’s not; it’s just the opposite.

- F. Children today are being indoctrinated in all manner of evil and inappropriate information.

Illus.: An Atlanta public elementary school principal told a Catholic couple that their five-year-old child would need to leave the district to avoid learning about LGBTQ+ issues.

Another Atlanta couple obtained a copy of their child’s teacher’s classroom book list. The parents were startled to learn that the teacher planned for the students to read one book that tells the story of a gay couple and another that discusses transgenderism.³

The New York Times recently published an article describing how parents who send their children to the exclusive and expensive Dalton School were upset to find out that their students had a class on “porn literacy,” saw very inappropriate videos, and heard teaching on very private matters.

- G. Christian families must instill within their children a strong commitment to following the biblical expectation for marriage and family—one man and one woman get married for life. Before marriage, all intimate contact is prohibited. After marriage, the spouses must not have intimate contact with anyone else. Children are to be raised in a two-parent household. The world today has largely rejected these basic Christian moral guidelines. Instead, anti-biblical, anti-Christian ideas are pumped into the minds of children and parent.

³ Chrissy Clark, “Atlanta Public School Told Catholic Couple to Remove Child From District...” DailyWire, 9 Aug 2021. Dailywire.com

H. Christian parents must protect their children against these threats. Parents often have no idea what is going on at the schools their children attend. If you don't want your children indoctrinated with an evil, corrupt world view, you better take steps to protect your children.

Trans: The world, the flesh, and the devil are doing everything in their power to destroy the Christian family and to lead your children astray. We must not be ignorant of these spiritual threats.

II. Social/cultural threats against the family

Pr 13:20 *He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.*

A. It is unfortunately true today that unbiblical and immoral ideas about the family predominate in most areas of culture. Whether we are talking about education, sports, politics, entertainment, the most common ideas and images are anti-biblical. TV, movies, the Internet, popular media are all pushing the same set of anti-biblical ideas regarding the family.

B. The culture itself is a threat to the traditional, biblical family. And we have to see it as a threat. We can't just indulge in the culture and think that it won't have negative effects on the family. E.g., current TV show, popular music, latest movies, Internet videos, etc. The vast majority of what our culture now produces promotes unbiblical values.

Illus.: The Black Lives Matter organization recently put out a statement on what they believe about families. These "trained Marxists" said,

"We disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and 'villages' that collectively care for one another, especially our children..."

The "nuclear" family, of course, is the family structure with a husband, wife, and children. BLM doesn't like that structure. They support "villages that collectively care" for children. I.e., it doesn't matter if children are born to non-married parents.

Just like Hillary Clinton said, "It takes a village to raise a child."

Organizations like BLM realize that the foundation of the entire culture is the family. If they can break down the family, they can break down the entire culture. And they are succeeding in large degree, especially among the black population in inner cities.

- C. The result of all this upheaval in society is that the traditional family structure is becoming less common all the time. Children growing up today see all these non-traditional family units and they assume that this is just another option.
 - 1. Some families have only one parent, and that's fine. It's ok to have children out of wedlock. It's ok to have a long string of adults coming in and out of the house.
 - 2. Some families have two men or two women as the parents, and that's fine. Same sex marriage or cohabiting is just another alternative that some people find fulfilling.
 - 3. I predict that polygamy and polyamory will soon be legally recognized as legitimate marriage.
- D. The culture is trying to convince our children that these other options are legitimate ways to live. That is wrong, and it represents a threat to the Christian family.
- E. Christians need to teach their children that these other family structures are not ok. We must teach and promote the biblical form of the family—one man and one woman covenant together for life. Children are born into a stable family unit of a husband and a wife. That ought to be the ideal, the norm, the standard that our children adopt.
- F. We need to prepare our families to be counter-cultural. We must stand against the unbiblical and anti-Christian direction the culture is going.

III. Technical threats against the family

- A. About 85% of American adults own a smart phone. About 80% own a computer of some kind. We all know that these devices connect to the Internet, and the Internet is filled with threatening material.
- B. On average, children ages 8-12 in the United States spend **4-6 hours a day** watching or using video screens, and teens spend up to 9 hours a day in front of a screen.

Of course, that much screen time can interfere with other more beneficial activities. Instead of running around outside or interacting with friends face to face, reading books or learning skills, kids often spend their time playing video games or watching videos.

Too much time in front of a screen can lead to obesity, attention problems, sleep disorders and problems at school.⁴

- C. And adults are not exempt from problems associated with technology.
 - 1. Men are especially enticed by pornography that is so easily available through computers and smart phones. Pornography is almost an epidemic, even among professing Christians.
 - 2. People spend hours engaged on various social media platforms. The ideas that they pick up on these platforms can be very dangerous. Children often don't have the discernment necessary to evaluate the ideas they encounter. They absorb what they see and hear—and then parents wonder how their children went so far astray.
- D. These technical devices are only tools; they can be used for good or for ill. They can make your life much more productive and pleasant, but they can also be a channel for all manner of sinful and disturbing material. That's why families must be aware of the threats these technical tools can be.
- E. If you are connected to the Internet at home, I'd suggest you use some kind of filtering software that prevents users from engaging with most of the worst content on the Internet.
- F. These technical tools can be a blessing, but they also present a threat. Families must be aware of these threats and take steps to reduce them.

IV. Political threats against the family

Pr 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

- A. Our nation was founded on biblical values, and for many years, the government upheld and promoted basically Christian morality. For several generations, Christianity was the dominant influence in the nation. Those in authority were certainly not perfect, but most of them upheld a basically Christian worldview and value system; the righteous were in authority in many cases.

⁴ <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/screentime-teens.html>

- B. But all of that has changed. Today, many of our political leaders promote what the Bible condemns. They directly and fervently contradict biblical and Christian values. E.g., Tammy Baldwin—homosexual, pro-abortion.
- C. The main political threat against the family today involves the government promoting, defending, and rewarding unbiblical and sinful behavior. The government in many cases is promoting an anti-biblical viewpoint on the family.
- D. There are many examples of this.

- 1. Right now, the government will actually pay people to stay home and not work. Some people are making more money not working than they would make if they returned to work.

Of course, the Bible says that if a man does not work, then he should not expect to eat (2 Thes 3:10). The husband/father of the household is obligated to provide for the physical needs of his family, and generally speaking, a man provides for his household through work/labor.

- 2. The government will pay for women to have children outside of marriage. It's financially advantageous for women to have children and not get married.

The Bible is very clear on this issue as well. Women should not have children until they are married. Many of the problems in society would be reduced if women simply would refuse to have children until they are married.

- 3. In some cases, the government makes it more expensive for two people to be married than it is to live together without marriage.

- 4. And, of course, the government promotes and defends abortion. In many places, a woman can have an abortion right up until the moment of natural birth. Historically, the government has funded Planned Parenthood to the tune of about 500M per year. Many in government want US taxpayers to fund abortion.

- 5. The government has demanded that even Christian adoption agencies must place children with homosexual partners.

- 6. Government schools are filling the minds of children with a multitude of anti-biblical ideas.

- a) Critical Race Theory

- b) Trans-gender policies; in some cases, the schools will not even tell the parents that their children have assumed a new identity at school.
 - c) Homosexual rights
 - d) Abortion rights
 - e) They support this ungodly secular agenda while prohibiting biblical values.
 - f) They'll tell children all about Islam, the religion of peace, but not allow any expressions of Christianity.
- E. So if you look at the political situation right now, you would have to admit that government policy largely opposes Christian life and morality. What Christian families are trying to teach their children, the government, in various ways, is trying to undo; they are teaching the opposite.
- F. That means that Christian families, if they seek to live consistently according to a Christian world view, will likely face opposition if not outright persecution. The Christian viewpoint is becoming less and less tolerable to the people in power in our nation.

There can be no doubt that the Christian family is facing great threats today, spiritually, socially, technically, and politically. In some respects, it seems like almost the whole world is against the traditional concept of the Christian family.

What do we do about all of these challenges to the Christian family? We continue to follow the biblical pattern.

1. Raise your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Pursue the salvation of your children.
2. Teach your children the truth of the Bible. Expose them to the Bible and biblical teaching as much as possible.
3. Make your home a place of warm affection, grace, and compassion. Make the Christian family as appealing and positive as possible.
4. Be a good example of sincere Christian faith in your household. Be a committed follower of Jesus Christ and live out the Christian life daily.
5. Pray for your family. Pray that your children would not be enticed by all the worldly and wicked temptations available today.

6. Answer your children's questions about these issues honestly. Your children should know why we don't live like the pagan world around us. Your children should understand your moral values.
7. Expose the errors of these threats. At the appropriate time and in the right way, show your children the dangers of these threats. Explain why we don't watch some of these movies or listen to certain kinds of music. Explain the problem with CRT or homosexual marriage. Explain why the Bible prohibits some of these sinful activities.
8. Protect your family from these threats. Don't allow these worldly and wicked ideas to penetrate your family. Parents must be the door keepers to prevent this garbage from entering your home.

We live in perilous times. Things seem to be getting worse and worse. The moral quality of our nation seems to be spiraling further down the sewer all the time. Christian families must stand against these threats as we seek to raise our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

