

message to their peers and adults. No mother or father should dress their daughter like a prostitute (again, Prov. 7:10). They should not allow their son to walk around looking like a hip-hop “artist” who cannot keep his pants up without holding them (you know what I mean). Rather, we ought to dress our children to send the message of self-respect, decent, and modest. This will help establish a mindset and, hopefully, a life-long habit.

7. Get them involved in good works (Titus 2:14).

Children need to see the importance of doing good. They will learn to appreciate what they have as you help the less fortunate. They will see you fulfilling God’s command to love your neighbor (Lk. 10:25-37). It will develop a heart of compassion and help them understand God’s care for us. This should also include kindness toward your parents. As you children grow and see this being done, it will stick with them when they are older...and you are too. In other words, in later years you can reap the benefits of raising good children.

- Steven F. Deaton



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Attacked For Homosexual Marriage Stand

Recent news reports say that Miss California is in hot water because of an answer to a question. During the Miss USA Pageant she was asked about homosexual marriage and replied she was against it; that marriage should be between a man and a woman. The sodomite host was angry and let everyone know on his internet site. Others have piled on as well.

There are several biblical lessons here.

First, Miss California is right about marriage, it is between a man and woman. God made it this way and no man or nation has the right to change it (Gen. 2:24). In fact, no one can truly change it because God does not recognize the sinful activities between two men as a marriage, no matter what the state or anyone else says. Marriage is reserved for those who have the right to it according to God’s word, and that does not include two men or two women getting married.

Second, the enemy is evil and hypocritical. The pro-homosexual movement demands rights. They want the right to “marry,” the right to benefits, the right to protections in the work force, and much more. However, they do not believe in the right of anyone to oppose them and their agenda. If someone speaks out, as Miss California did, they launch an all-out assault calling names and impugning the intelligence, compassion, reason, motivation, and character of their opponent, as well as threats in some cases. The devil uses this tactic to try and silence those who speak truth (Acts 4:18-20; 24:5, 6). It is time for those who believe God’s word to speak out against sodomy and not

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be intimidated by those who advocate it.

Finally, it is sad that a true statement was given by a sinner. We do not know Miss California's religious affiliation. However, one that is for sure, she does not follow God's word. If she did, she would not be parading around in public in a bikini. God commands modesty of men and women (1 Tim. 2:9, 10; 1 Pet. 3:1, 2). When a woman (or man) goes out in public in what is essentially underwear, she is not modest. Rather, she is guilty of uncleanness (Gal. 5:19). The truth is often handicap this way. The one speaking it is committing a blatant sin while condemning another. This is hypocritical and damaging to the cause of God. Let us be determined to live by the truth, as well as speak it.

- Steven Deaton

7 Tips To Raising Good Children

1. Love them with all your heart (Titus 2:4).

The love you have for your child will make an incalculable impact on his or her life. It will help your child develop the proper sense of self worth. They will carry it with them even when you make a mistake or they do. Without true love for your child, he or she will be handicap in life. It will be harder for them to love others; to have a proper relationship with others. It will also give them a distorted view of God since our love is based on His.

2. Teach them God's Word (Deut. 6:6-9).

The surest way to raise a good child is to teach them the Good Book. Even from the womb babies ought to be taught the Bible; it is a habit to form early on. As they grow the lessons and material can be adjusted to suit their needs. If parents wait until their children are 10, 12, or 14, it is way too late. In fact, from my observations and what others tell me, if you wait much beyond the first year or two a great deal is lost that

may never be recovered.

3. Discipline them properly (Prov. 13:24).

No one likes a brat, unless it is their own. And, even it is their own, there is much grief. The Bible teaches parents to discipline their children. This would include "positive" discipline that does teaching and gives rewards for good behavior. Most parents do not have a problem with this. Where the difficulty comes is giving "negative" discipline. This may be taking away privileges or spanking (not beating). A father that loves his child will chasten him to develop him into a good person (Heb. 12:5-11).

4. Take them to church (Psa. 122:1).

Going to church consistently teaches the children it is a priority in life. It exposes them to the best people in the world, Christians. They can see that others are striving to live for God; others who have troubles but press on; others who are not all that different from them. Bible classes and worship assemblies gives opportunities for them to learn more about God's Word. Some parents start out doing this, but when the children resist stop saying to force them to go to church will only make it that much worse. Is that how they treat giving them or making them take a bath?

5. Regulate their friends (Prov. 13:20).

The companions our children spend time with will have a great impact on their life. Their attitude, outlook, personality, language, dress, hopes, dreams, and more can all be affected by their friends. It is a God-given duty for parents to keep a close eye on such things. Children may see it as intrusive, especially in the teenage years, but it is necessary. Secretly, some will be thankful, while others may look back years later and see the value of such oversight.

6. Dress them appropriately (Prov. 7:10).

Like it or not, clothing sends a message. Our appearance can say put-together, clean-cut, business-like, laid-back, smooth-talker, self-centered, and many other things. Parents who love their children want the clothing they wear to send the right