

teachers is criticism of divine government in his mind. The person represents the principle to most children. Granted that occasionally some people in positions of authority over your child may abuse their positions, making it necessary for you to point out that while such abuse is wrong — it still should be the general rule that you praise rather than criticize those whose position of authority should be respected by your child. It is sad that about all some children hear about their school, their country (government), or the church is criticism of work done by the personnel of these institutions. How can we expect them to grow up to respect them?

Second, let society take the blame/or his conduct. Let your child know that you “understand” that he would not have acted the way he did had it not been for the corrupt society into which you so thoughtlessly caused him to be born. Let him know that he is being constantly victimized by others. Allow him to constantly console himself in the notion that he deserves a better shake in life than society has handed him. Always express your sympathy to him when he complains that “it is just not fair.” Then he can grow up believing, really believing, that whatever happens to him and whatever he does is just a product of the times in which he is living — rather than the product of his own making. He can then go through life blaming his wife for domestic problems, blaming the church for his spiritual problems, blaming the government for many of his failures, and blaming you for the rest of his woes.

No Christian has ever had an ideal society in which to live and rear children. This is a sinful world. It was sinful in the first century. Christians were told to “become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life” (Philippians 3:15-16). It was not an impossible task then and it is not now. Parents who were Christians were told to “bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4) in a world filled with ungodliness (Ephesians 4:17-5:14). Our children must understand that they are going have to live godly in spite of society and quit blaming their moral, ethical, or spiritual behavior with its consequences of such upon society.

Third, do not teach your child how to properly use his or her body. Mothers, do not teach your child the effect that nakedness or near nakedness has on the opposite sex, nor the seductive power of “body language” (cp. Proverbs 6:24-25).

One is simply burying his head in the sand if he does not recognize that the sex drive is strong in young people after they reach maturity. One way to protect it so that it ultimately will be used properly in the marriage relationship is to protect the sense of modesty and shame. It disturbs me to see parents allow their children (even while very young) to get into the habit of going nearly naked. Though it may be harmless enough in small children — habits can be formed early. It disturbs me further to see parents of teenagers actually encourage their children to publicly display their bodies in scanty attire or else ignore and/or defend them in their actions. Even if the attire is justified by many in the name of sports and/or recreation, it is still immodest. Still worse, parents become upset and hostile in their defense of their children’s right to such immodesty