

Where Have All Our Heroes Gone?

If you were to look at the World Almanac to see what kind of role models young people admire, you would probably not find doctors, scientists, diplomats, elders, deacons, preachers, Bible class teachers, authors, poets, a president or even a astronaut.

In fact, you would probably find that immoral entertainers and athletes top the list. You can listen as these people talk of their multiple marriages or describe their "shack-ups." You can listen as they detail their latest run-in with law enforcement, be it DUI or otherwise. You can listen as they express their opinions on subjects about which they know nothing -- even religion! What can concerned parents and grandparents do to change this trend?

First, you can control entertainment. Perhaps the biggest contribution to the making of heroes comes from the television. You can begin today to control the television your children and grandchildren watch. Men and women portrayed as heroes who are profane, violent and sexually promiscuous should be turned off!

Second, you can promote biblical men and women. Most of our children and grandchildren know more about Britney Spears than they do Jesus Christ, David, Joseph or Josiah. If you are of a little older generation, you know what made Elvis famous. If you are of my generation, you are probably pretty familiar with Clint Eastwood's phrase, "Make my day." But do we know or care what famous statements Joseph or David made? Do we even know who Josiah was or what he did?

Third, you can stop criticizing good men and women. Elders, deacons, preachers and Bible class teachers are fallible men (or women in the case of some teachers), but they deserve better than to be run down in the car on the way home from services. You have good people who are trying to be role models right in front of you! "Cutting the legs off" our heroes will not help.

To help children find pure heroes today, are we willing to change? Life is always about choices (Deuteronomy 30:19; Joshua 24:15)! Have we been contributors to the problem all along? Where have all the heroes gone?

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