

Safe Sin - cont.

It is also good for parents to demand respect from their children. Never lie to them; carry out your punishment, making believers out of them. This is true love. Have respect for yourselves. Don't get down on their level. Lead them; not let them.

Children who learn early to respect authority will grow up to respect their elders, their school teachers, the civil authorities, and above all, God.

If a child leads the parents "around by the nose" so to speak and is thereby spoiled and pampered, there will be problems, conflicts, and sad and shameful consequences in this life, with the Judgment day still ahead. Proverbs 29:15: "The rod and reproof give wisdom; but a child left to himself causes shame to his mother."

Parents, we must believe God's word in the Bible rather than the human wisdom found in parent magazines, TV programs, social media, etc. Blessed and happy is the child who is taught, not the so-called "safe sin," but the fear of God that governs his life by God's word. He, if faithful until death, will enjoy eternal life in heaven,

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while the "safe sinner" will suffer eternal consequences in hell (1 Timothy 4:8).

Is sin safe? Maybe safe from some temporal consequences, but not safe from God's eternal consequences (Hebrews 9:27). There is no "safe" sin; there is only sin, and its wages are (eternal) death (Romans 6:23).

- Chris Reeves -

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as becomes saints; nor filthiness, nor foolish talking, or jesting, which are not befitting: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know of a surety, that no fornicator, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

- Ephesians 5:3-5 -

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When one rejects God and denies any accountability to God, he has no consequences of immorality with which to be concerned, other than the immediate and the temporal.

The “practicing safe sin” philosophy is driven by a rejection of God and is concerned only with self (“self-esteem,” or “comfort zone”) and with gratifying the desires of self with the least unpleasant results. The idea is this: sin safely and don’t get caught. This idea of self-pleasure is like the ancient philosophy of hedonism. This word is from the Greek word for “pleasure” (see it in Luke 8:14; Titus

3:3; James 4:1,3; and 2 Peter 2:13).

Unlike the people of the world, the Bible-believer knows that the consequences of immoral behavior are not merely temporal. Consider Paul who preached to Felix about righteousness, self-control, and judgment to come (Acts 24:24,25).

Felix’s philosophy was possibly something like: “You go around only once, give it all the gusto you can!” He was a typical politician of his day - do whatever you can to get what you want. History tells us that he pursued his desires and ambitions, letting nothing stand in his way. Yet, Paul spoke to him about the value of God’s righteousness (plan of salvation in Christ Jesus), about self-control (God holds man accountable), and about the judgment to come. These virtues were completely foreign to Felix.

Felix trembled! He was terrified (Acts 24:25). The reality of a judgment after death before a God who is both good and severe (Romans 11:22) would cause anyone unprepared for it to tremble.

There is a consequence of sin which cannot be escaped by the measures peo-

ple take today to make sin “safe.” Consider also Solomon. He lived life to its fullest. He had wisdom, wealth, wine, works, and wives to satisfy every desire (Ecclesiastes 2:1-11). But, even he had the wisdom to conclude: “This is the end of the matter; all hath been heard: fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:13,14).

There is no such thing as “safe sin.” It doesn’t exist. It is a lie and a deception of the Devil. Don’t believe it! Sin is lawlessness. “Every one that does sin does also lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness” (1 Jn. 3:4). Lawlessness is the condition of one without law (Greek, *anomia* = without law to authorize). Yes, there are consequences to acting without God’s law.

One of the best things that parents can do with their children is to teach them to act by God’s law. Children must be taught to have authority for all that they do and for where they go. There must be permission in their life: “May I?” - *continued*