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... that children should be raised by the mother and father who brought them into the world.

- Those who pride themselves on shaking or destroying the faith of the young.

- Those who glorify violence for its own sake.

- Those who seek to sexualize children at younger and younger ages.

- Those who introduce "adult" language, entertainment, habits, etc. to the young.

- Those who teach children that it is alright to act righteous in public and another way in private.

- Those who abandon children to the influence of the world without protection and guidance.

- Those who teach children that there are things in this life more important than God.

Since God doesn't want children to end up in hell, how must He feel about those who practice these things?

- Brent Paschall -

- Word of the Week -

"Glory" (Gr. *doxa*) means literally, "an honor resulting from a good opinion". God, Jesus, and Christians have "glory". It is important to remember that it is an honor to be a Christian now and it will be honorable for Christians to be in heaven (Rom. 8:18, 21; Phil. 3:21; 1 Pet. 5:1, 10; Rev. 21:11). This week you are living an honorable life. Don't ever forget that!

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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 -

Guest Article: God Doesn't Want Children to End Up on Hell

This may seem like an obvious statement, but in Matthew 18:14, Jesus declares, "So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish." This is the conclusion of a lesson that began with a question about who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus told his disciples that the greatest would be one who humble himself like the little child he had called into their midst.

Matthew 18:1-4 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" **2** Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, **3** and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. **4** Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

How could a child end up in hell? Jesus was not concerned about the sin of Adam being placed on children causing them to perish. Ezekiel (18:20) had long before made it clear that "the soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wicked-

ness of the wicked shall be upon himself." But Jesus WAS concerned that human beings living on earth might influence a child to embrace and practice sin when they became a responsible moral agent, resulting in eternal judgment for that child.

To demonstrate how serious God's concern is for the spiritual well-being of children, Jesus told them that:

- Receiving a child Jesus' name was like receiving Him (v. 5)
- Those who cause children to sin were better off dead (v. 6-7).

Matthew 18:5-7 (NKJV) —

5 Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. **6** "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. **7** Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!

He went on to teach:

- It is better for human beings to experience physical maiming and disability than to be spiritually injured by the practice of sin (v. 8-9).

- Their angels are in the continual presence of the heavenly Father, who would thereby be apprised of any hurtful action taken towards children, and who was responsible (v. 10).

- He would personally go to great lengths in order to reclaim a wandering soul (v. 11-13).

Those who care for and influence children and young people today should ask themselves, "Are my words and actions going to make it easier or harder for this child to become what God would have him or her to be?" Considering the warnings of Christ, there are many in our society who should be looking over their shoulders:

- Those who try to keep children from ever hearing a prayer in public.

- Those to try to hide from children that they were created by a God who loves them enough to send His Son to die for them.

- Those who destroy infants in the womb or defend and promote the practice.

- Those who denigrate the ideal ...