

Reformed

A MAGAZINE FOR THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

JULY/AUGUST 2016  
Volume 35 Issue No. 9

# PERSPECTIVE

CELEBRATING 30+ YEARS

## NEW SPIN, SAME FLAWED RESEARCH

Researchers are saying that spanking is never a good idea.

They've clearly never met this fellow.



NEWS WORTH NOTING...  
**NOTA BENE**  
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IN A NUTSHELL • FROM THE EDITOR • BOOK REVIEWS • CROSSWORD

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# Reformed PERSPECTIVE

A MAGAZINE FOR THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

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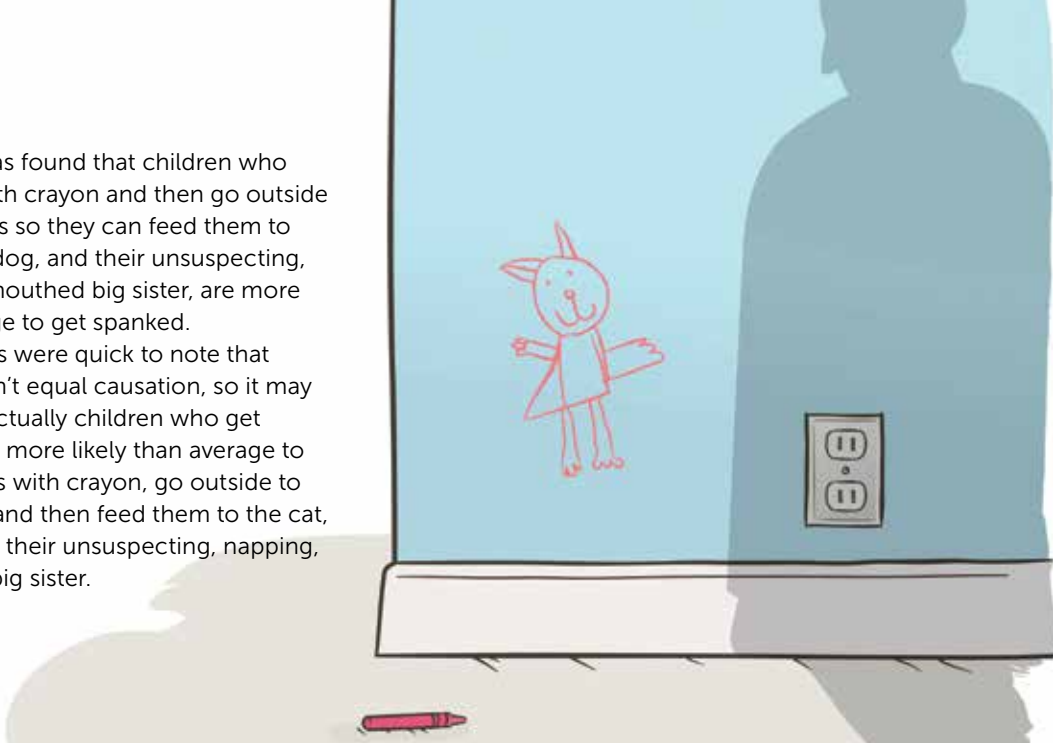
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## OR VICE VERSA

This just in....

A new study has found that children who write on walls with crayon and then go outside to make mud pies so they can feed them to the cat, and the dog, and their unsuspecting, napping, open-mouthed big sister, are more likely than average to get spanked.

But researchers were quick to note that correlation doesn't equal causation, so it may well be that it's actually children who get spanked who are more likely than average to write on the walls with crayon, go outside to make mud pies, and then feed them to the cat, and the dog, and their unsuspecting, napping, open-mouthed big sister.

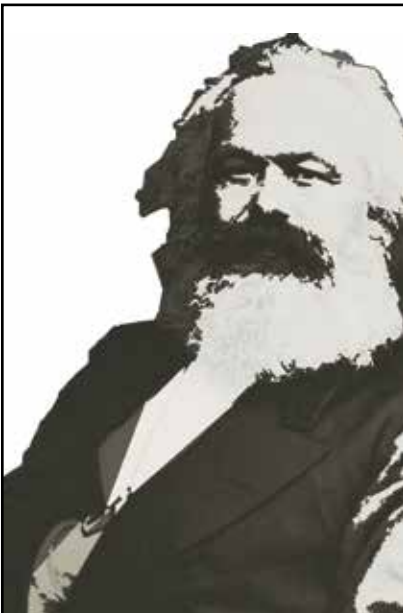


# NEW SPIN - SAME FLAWED RESEARCH

Exposing the poor research fueling the anti-spanking campaign

by Mark Penninga

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# READER RESPONSE

## DEAR EDITOR,

*Reformed Perspective* generally does an excellent job of consistently bringing logical arguments against the various secular worldviews and is generally eagerly read in our house. The June issue's *Nota Bene* accused the Fraser Institute of making a mathematical mistake.

The infographic showed the 52 original lines of tax forms in 2000 to the 172 lines of 2015 and said that this was increased 232%. However, the article contradicted this by saying that it was a growth of 332%. The reasoning was  $172/52 \approx 3.31$  or 331%. This is true. However, the infographic said it was increased 232%. The increase =  $172 - 52 = 120 \approx 52 \times 2.32$ . In the context, the wording can be taken either way. So while the *Nota Bene* article was correct, generally it would be interpreted as an increase of rather than increased by. In any case, the infographic is correct, removing any significance from the argument.

However, the core message is still correct, possibly supported by the above: math mistakes are easy to make, so make the tax forms simpler.

Zachary den Boer (Year 9)  
Kelmescott, Western Australia

## EDITOR'S RESPONSE:

Thank-you for your helpful corrective. And thank you for the manner in which you made it!

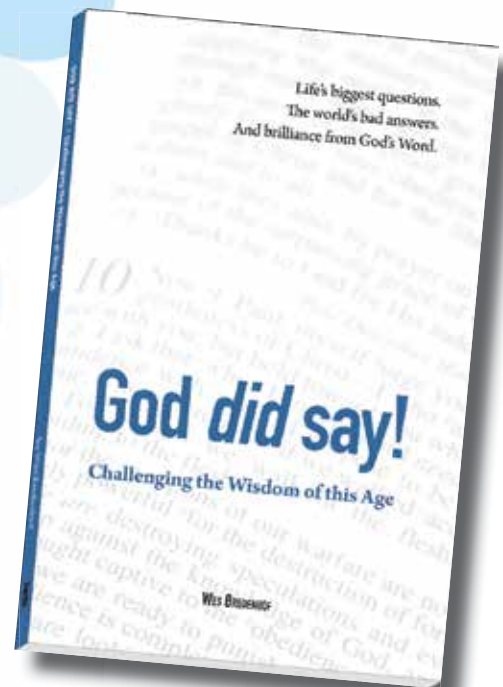


Consider the difference between these two questions:

- "What did God say?"
- "Did God really say?"

The first one is about finding clarity. The second seems like the first, but when the Serpent asked it of Eve in the Garden his intent wasn't to confirm what God had said, but rather to *challenge* it. He was asking this question to raise doubt. The same is true today. Some in the Church are questioning, but not to find out what God said, but instead to undermine what He said.

In his new book Dr. Bredenhof wants us to understand that there is no need for uncertainty, because God *did* say!



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FROM THE EDITOR

# GOD GIVES REST

## On the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment

by Jon Dykstra

**Y**ears ago I blew my first shot at university. I goofed off, got lousy grades, and ended up with a one-year academic suspension.

When I came back I didn't want to mess up my second, and also last, chance. So I studied *hard*. It wasn't quite 24/7, but close, and if I had an exam on Monday I would review all my notes the day before. I would be highlighting and cramming into the wee hours of Sunday night.

And then my dad found out.

I'd really disappointed my dad when I got suspended and didn't want to disappoint him again. I wasn't going to, *no matter how hard I had to push myself!*

So here's my dad, popping his head around the corner to wish me "Good night!" and he sees me hard at work. He sees me stressing. He sees a young man in a near constant panic. I was *not*

going to blow this.

And here's what he told me.  
*God gives rest.*

### HE DOESN'T EXPECT MORE

Yes, I had to work hard those six other days of the week, but come Sunday, God said I could stop. Instead of work, we can be with our family, together, worshipping our God. Instead of stressing, we can recover. Instead of work we can play and nap and go to bed on time.

But what if that makes me fail my

*But what if that makes me fail my Monday morning exam?*

Monday morning exam?

My dad spelled it out very clearly: then I fail. But I fail in a very different sort of way than the first time. The first time I was lazy, and not using my God-given talents. But if I use what He's given me, and it turns out I simply don't have what it takes to make it in university while studying *only* six days a week, then so be it. *Then I can fail knowing I do so to God's glory.*

That's what my dad told me, and I am very grateful he did. It lifted a weight off my shoulders. I could stop clenching my teeth and just breathe again.

It also turned out that a day off can make you a lot more effective Monday through Saturday, so resting didn't impact my grades. I did pretty well my second go around.

But a few years later I was a part of a political campaign that never had enough time to get things done. We

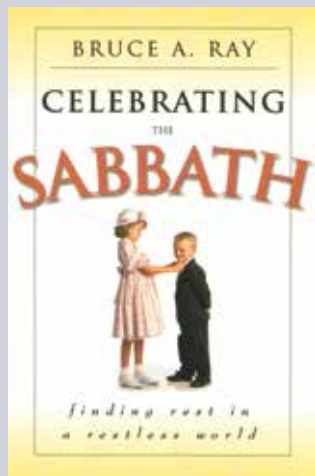
# A FORGOTTEN COMMANDMENT?

*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. – Exodus 20:8-11*

In *Celebrating the Sabbath* pastor Bruce Ray warns that there are two ways to fall off the horse when it comes to Sunday observance: legalism and lawlessness.

Our churches used to lean in the legalistic direction, turning this gift from God into a day of “don’ts.” Riding a bike, going to the lake after church, or playing some basketball with friends were all things that “*we niet doen op Zondag!*”

But today the pressure is coming from the lawless side. It seems as if Christians in most other churches don’t have a problem with working on Sunday. Sure, many do take the day off (who doesn’t like weekends off?), but if the boss wants them to come in, they won’t object. And when they get to go to church, they think nothing of going to brunch right afterwards and putting cooks, waitstaff and dishwashers to work on their behalf. The 4th Commandment has become a forgotten commandment.



## CELEBRATING THE SABBATH

BY BRUCE A. RAY  
125 PAGES / 2000

It’s curious. It’s as if the Western Church believes there should now be just the Nine Commandments. I’ve heard it argued that the 4th Commandment was part of the Old Testament ceremonial law, and that like the rest of the ceremonial law it was fulfilled with Jesus’ coming.

But as Pastor Ray points out, the Sabbath rest has a history that extends to long before God gave the Ten Commandments. It begins right in Genesis 1 and 2 with Creation.

...the Sabbath was ordained before the Fall, for all people of all time. It cannot be confined to the ceremonial law appointed specifically for the nation of Israel, but was intended to be a celebration of creation for Adam and all his posterity

So no, we are not down to just Nine Commandments....and that is a very good thing. God knows us, and in this command He gives us what we badly need. In *Celebrating the Sabbath* Bruce Ray includes a good quote from M. J. Dawn about how the 4th commandment is a blessing.

...it forces us to rely on God for our future. On that day we do nothing to create our own way. We abstain from work, from our incessant need to produce and accomplish, from all the anxieties about how we can be successful in all that we have to do to get ahead. The result is that we can let God be God in our lives.

So let’s embrace this commandment as both a rule for our lives and as the gift it is, given by our loving Heavenly Father who knows what we need.

worked from 6 AM until midnight every day for 6 weeks, 6 days a week. On Sundays I stopped. And we lost.

What might have happened if we had gone just that little bit harder and campaigned on Sunday too? I never wonder. God didn’t require it of me, so I never had to consider it. And when we lost, I knew that this was the very best thing that could have happened. Better to fail God’s way than to succeed any other. We campaigned to God’s glory, rested to the very same end, and in losing, honored Him.

## TAKE THE GIFT!

We sometimes see the Fourth Commandment as a restriction imposed on us, but Jesus tells us it is a gift: “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27).

The Sabbath rest is for us. We’re allowed to take it. What God is saying here is if the only job you can find requires Sunday work, then you don’t need to do it. You can take your Sunday rest, even if it means being unemployed. You can honor Him in turning to the deacons.

If you need to work Sundays to get ahead, God says there is no need to climb the corporate ladder. You can take your rest and honor Him more by staying that one rung further down than you could ever do so by rising higher while rejecting His Sunday gift.

And here’s a radical thought for all the procrastinating students out there. If you really should have been working on your project all week, but didn’t, and now it’s Sunday and the project is due the next day and you’ve barely started,...you know what? You can *still* take your day of rest. Of course you need to ask God’s forgiveness for all the laziness of the last week. But you don’t do Him any honor in starting to work hard on the day He’s given to you as rest. Take your day. Fail your project. Understand that the reason you have a lousy mark is because of all the time



“*Stop trying to figure out a way to evade God’s generosity. Just enjoy it.*”

you wasted during the week, and it has nothing to do with the rest you took on Sunday. Then ask God to help you fight your procrastination so you don’t make this same mistake again.


### EMBRACE THE GIFT, NOT THE EXCEPTION

Of course sometimes there are reasons to work on Sunday. We know there are all sorts of jobs that may require some Sunday hours. We know that Jesus healed on Sunday, and encouraged taking kids and oxen out of pits even if they happen to fall in on the Sabbath (Luke 14). Police officers, farmers, ministers and the odd chemist or two, will need to work on Sunday.

But the principle remains the same: God gives us rest. Taking a day off, once

per week, is not only a gift from God, but also a matter of, in humility, trusting Him. Each week God provides this reminder to make it clear that yes, the world *can* get by without us. So if your vital job keeps you from the occasional worship service, then you should still take God up on his gift of rest. Take a breather on Monday, or Saturday, and discover how you’re not quite as vital as you thought. Then stop trying to figure out a way to evade God’s generosity. Just enjoy it.

In a world filled with endless work – laundry that never ends, homes that don’t repair themselves, and office work that you have to take home with you in the evening – what a wonderful gift it is to be able to *stop* working. Guilt-free. What a relief!

Why would we ever say no? 



Jon Dykstra can be reached at [editor@reformedperspective.ca](mailto:editor@reformedperspective.ca).

# Think you can change the world *by listening?*

# We do.

**CHANGE** can be big, like eradicating poverty big. Or it can be small, like sharing a cup of coffee small. It’s about what you choose to do on the one hand, and who you are on the other. We are more than our jobs, and God has a calling for each of us, wherever we go. That changes everything. Including you.



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# NOTA BENE

News worth noting

## SEN. UNGER: "DO NOT KILL THE INNOCENT. LIFE IS SACRED."

BY MARK REIMERS



**S**enator Betty Unger, from Alberta, was very specific in a June 1 interview with *Macleans.ca* about the government's recently passed Bill C-14: Assisted dying is morally wrong.

The interview represents Unger as unwilling to dance around the issue by portraying it as merely bad for Canada, or as some other lesser problem. Even when the interviewer attempted to add context by asking if she had experiences with loved ones that helped form her opinion, Unger was blunt:

**Macleans:** So many people who have strong feelings about this have personal experience. Have you had experience in your family with extended illnesses or anything like this?

**Unger:** Not the palliative care issue, but both my parents and my husband are gone, and I was with each one when they passed.

**Macleans:** What lessons did you draw from those experiences that impact your moral decision about this?

**Unger:** It wasn't these specific examples, it's my upbringing as a Catholic. It's just morally wrong.

Unger could have allowed herself an out of sorts by allowing her values to be "humanized," as if her values were just an opinion formed by her experience. Instead, she took an unpopular but consistent stand for truth being unshakable. Not only should we take heart at this point of light, Unger also deserves our encouragement and praise.

SOURCE: Shannon Proudfoot's "Sen. Betty Unger on Bill C-14: 'I am morally opposed'" posted to *Macleans.ca* June 1; Photo credit: Art Babych / Shutterstock.com

## WNBA/NBA FIRST LEAGUES TO HAVE FLOAT IN NYC PRIDE PARADE

BY JON DYKSTRA



**T**he Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) and the NBA have embraced homosexuality in a big way. In June the WNBA had four nationally televised games that featured: "in-game Pride-related content and the WNBA Pride logo on courtside signage." The "Pride" mentioned here is specifically LGBT pride – pride in living a homosexual or transsexual, etc. lifestyle.

Most (and maybe all) the individual WNBA teams are also doing Pride events. For example, a June 11 game, between the Seattle Storm and the Connecticut Sun, had a rainbow thunderstick giveaway, and the 50/50 raffle went to support the homosexual advocacy group Equal Rights

Washington. Then on June 26 NBA Commissioner Adam Silver and WNBA president Lisa Borders appeared in the New York City Pride Parade on a float made by the two leagues. Silver has also broadly hinted the league may pull next year's all-star game from Charlotte, North Carolina, if that state doesn't let transsexual men (men who wish they were women) into women's washrooms.

Sport has always had its bad examples: players who are cheaters, adulterers, spendthrifts, gamblers and egomaniacs. But until now sports leagues haven't held up sins as virtues. Cheaters are punished and while egomaniacs and adulterers aren't always condemned, no sports league would participate in an Adulterer's Pride event. Today, however, the NBA and WNBA are leading the way in using their popularity to promote a sin that alienates people from God. Isn't it time we stopped cheering?



## RCUS TO RCN: YOUR CHOICE

BY WES BREDEHOF



ver the last year or so, we've seen both the Free Reformed Churches of Australia and the Canadian

Reformed Churches issue stern warnings to their sister churches in the Netherlands. If there is no turn-around at the next synod of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (RCN), then these relationships will, in the words of the FRCA, "become sadly untenable."

Now you can add an American voice to that of the Australians and Canadians. The Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS) held its synod on May 16-19 in Bakersfield, California.

The RCUS has also maintained a voice of witness against the deformation in their Dutch sister church. Like the Australians and Canadians, however, the RCUS is now just about finished with the RCN. This is the decision you'll find in the *Abstract of the Minutes for the 270th Synod* (page 76):

That the Interchurch Relations Committee (IRC) of the RCUS be tasked to write a letter to the synod of the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands (RCN, or GKN) advising of the following: That pursuant to our fraternal relationship, based upon our adopted rules governing that relationship, and pursuant to our previous letter of admonition to the synod of the RCN regarding the Theological University of Kampen (TUK), women in office, and other matters such as homosexuality. That the synod of the RCUS herein advises that if the RCN continues to neglect our admonition and continues its present course of de-formation, contrary to scripture

and the Three Forms of Unity (TFU) at its next synod, that the RCUS will break its fraternal relationship with the RCN, and consider our fraternal relationship to have ended. However, if the next synod of the RCN indicates that it is returning to acknowledge the full authority of scripture and the TFU regarding the above concerns, that our normal fraternal relationship will continue.

The Dutch Synod next year is going to be a nail-biter. Will the RCN really throw away relationships with sister-churches in Australia, Canada, and the United States to continue their current path? Is it worth it?

One would hope that they would value these relationships and want to hold onto them. But more importantly, one would hope that they would see the validity of the concerns expressed and repent because they agree that they have departed from Scripture – and therefore realize that it is repentance that would please God above all.

## GOVERNMENT TRAIN CAN'T BEAT WESTJET PLANE...OR GREYHOUND BUS

BY JON DYKSTRA



ewer people are using it, more trains are behind schedule, and it continues to bleed money by the

millions: that's what Canada's Auditor General reported this spring when he took a close look at VIA Rail. In 2014 the Crown corporation had revenues of \$280 million, but spent \$597 million in operating costs, plus another 82 million in capital projects (putting down tracks, etc.). That works out to a loss of \$399 million, all of it covered by the government.

So what did taxpayers get for their money? Well, an economy ticket for a four-day trip from Vancouver to Toronto is roughly \$500, but the true cost is \$1,100, with the government chipping in the difference of \$600. Even with government subsidies of \$55 million for the Vancouver-Toronto route, VIA Rail can't compete on speed

or price. In comparison, an economy ticket for a flight on WestJet for the same route can be had for \$300 and will take five hours. A bus ticket for a three-day Vancouver-Toronto trip is as little as \$250.

Government intrusion into the marketplace has left us with a business that is slower, more expensive, and costs hundreds of millions of Canadian tax dollars each year. Why, then, does VIA Rail still exist? Because every time they cut service on unprofitable routes, ticket buyers – those who get the bulk of their ticket price paid for by taxpayers – protest. And these squeaky wheels continue to get greased.

What's the takeaway for us? Let's not be that sort of squeaky wheel.

We can make use of VIA's service for as long as they exists – we don't need to feel guilty about taking advantage of their subsidized ticket prices.



Why? Because so long as their trains are going to keep running whether profitable or not, our ticket purchases will amount to a small decrease in VIA's overall losses. However, if VIA proposes cutting a route – even our favorite route – then we must not squeak! It's one thing to make use of wasteful government services, and quite another to demand the government continue providing these services. On what biblical basis can we argue that others should be required to subsidize our scenic train trips?

SOURCES: VIA Rail Canada Annual Report 2014; 2016 Spring Reports of the Auditor General of Canada; Via Rail Canada Inc. – Special Examination Report – 2016

## BOY SAVED, GORILLA KILLED, AND (NEARLY) EVERYONE APPLAUDS

BY JON DYKSTRA



**O**n May 28, a 3 or 4 year-old boy (news accounts differ) fell into a gorilla enclosure at the Cincinnati Zoo. Amazingly the child survived the 10-foot fall with only minor injuries, landing in a moat filled with about half a foot of water. But then one of the enclosure's other occupants – a 400-pound silverback male gorilla named Harambe – grabbed the boy and started dragging him around, knocking the boy against a wall at one point. Zookeepers took two female gorillas out of the enclosure but didn't approach the male, for fear of provoking him. About ten minutes later the decision was made that the best chance at saving the boy would mean shooting the gorilla, and Harambe was put down. The boy was treated in the hospital but escaped largely uninjured.

A question was raised as to why the zoo didn't just tranquilize the gorilla, instead of killing it. Tranquilizing would take several minutes to put the gorilla to sleep, and zookeepers didn't know if the boy would survive that kind of wait.

Some in the pro-life media wondered at the coverage this gorilla's death was receiving compared with the many humans that were killed that same day. *LifeSiteNews.com* carried an article noting that:

Over the long weekend, 69 citizens were shot across Chicago. At the same time, a gorilla named Harambe was shot after a toddler fell into the animal's enclosure at the Cincinnati Zoo. ABC, CBS and NBC spent 54 times more on the death of one gorilla than they did on the shootings (and, in some cases, death) of human beings in Chicago.

This was, however, much ado about nada. The news isn't simply the most important stories of the day, but also the most interesting. It isn't just about *importance*, but also *novelty*. As one journalism aphorism puts it, you never read about planes that *don't* crash. So when a dog bites a man, we understand that isn't going to be reported, but if a man bites a dog, now that's something!

Sadly, dozens being shot in Chicago has become too regular an event to warrant lengthy news coverage, while a child being saved from a gorilla is novel enough to get the banner headlines. And there's nothing outrageous or unexpected about it.

In fact, rather than being upset at

the mainstream press for devaluing life, this was an opportunity to praise them for finally getting things right. Story after story underscored how simple a decision this was for the zookeepers to make. Everyone understood: a boy matters more than a beast.

Even animal rights groups didn't complain about the boy's life being valued higher than that of the gorilla (they did voice complaints, but about other issues, like why the zoo had gorillas in captivity in the first place).

Of course, some radical animal activists do act as if a pig is a dog is a rat is a boy – all morally equivalent. On Twitter the rock band Queen's guitarist Brian May complained that Harambe had been "murdered" with "no trial – no reason." But these types of complaints were hardly heard because the world seemed to understand the silliness of such thinking. After all, if Man is nothing more than another animal, then of course we would kill the gorilla to save one of our own kind. That's what animals do! (Beasts don't conduct trials.) It's only when we understand that we're different and better than animals that it becomes reasonable to expect something more from us than animal behavior. And when we recognize Man's superiority, then in those circumstances we would also shoot the gorilla, to save the ever more valuable child.

## PRO-LIFE FLAG DISPLAY HEADS SOUTH

BY JON DYKSTRA



SOURCE: Picture by Angela Davis

**A**RPA Canada and We Need a Law have had an enormous impact across Canada, and now they've inspired an event south of the border.

It's been almost two years since the two groups organized an enormous pro-life flag display on Canada's Parliament Hill. Each of the 100,000 small flags represented one life lost due to abortion that year.

Since then smaller displays, often of 10,000 flags, have happened all across the country.

And now, in early July, a group from the Lynden American Reformed Church set up their own display. In the nearby City of Bellingham, dozens of volunteers came out to set up pink and blue flags and talk to passersby. They planted 3,500 flags to

represent the number of children aborted in the United States each day.

May we all continue speaking up for these little ones. And may God embolden us to get ever louder.

## ACTRESS UNDERSTANDS THE HOLINESS OF GOD'S NAME

BY JON DYKSTRA



Actress Melissa Joan Hart doesn't have everything figured out, but she has gotten one thing right: she refuses to take God's name in vain, no matter what the script might require.

Hart gained fame in the 1990s playing a good witch, then starred in a horror film, posed in lingerie for a men's magazine, and these days pops up on social media every now and again when she posts another bikini shot – in these ways she is not an example for aspiring Christian actors to follow. But on one matter she knows what's right, and she is doing it. While promoting her latest film *God's Not Dead 2* this spring, she told *TheBlaze.com*'s Billy Hallowell:



You will not see me in a TV show ever saying, "Oh my God," because I don't take that word lightly...And that's a very small example of how I've been able to influence my work a little bit. For me, it's a big step today, because it's written in every single script.

SOURCE: Billy Hallowell's "God's Not Dead 2" Star Melissa Joan Hart Reveals the Three Words She Refuses to Say on TV", posted to *TheBlaze.com* on April 1.

## CRC SYNOD ON SAME-SEX "MARRIAGE"

BY JON DYKSTRA



Same-sex "marriage" was on the agenda at the Christian Reformed Churches' (CRC) 2016 Synod this June. A committee formed in 2013 came back this year with a minority and majority report. Both agreed that CRC ministers would violate the CRC position on homosexuality if they officiated at a *religious* same-sex ceremony, but the majority report thought it could be okay for a pastor to officiate at a *civil* ceremony, *so long as the couple agreed to remain celibate*.

Huh?

The committee noted that it was "unusual, but not unheard of, for a pastor to receive a request to officiate at a civil ceremony." Okay, but how often do we think a couple of guy friends (just friends, mind you!) are going to want to, in the eyes of the State, get *married*? Why, then, did the *majority* report raise this as an issue worth discussing?

It's called muddying the waters. No pastor should ever officiate a same-sex "marriage" ceremony because to do so

would be to endorse and encourage sin. But instead of speaking plainly and Scripturally the majority report crafted an implausible "what if?" scenario by which they can leave the door open just a crack. What if two female friends – in a strictly nonsexual relationship – want to get "married" so they can adopt special needs children? What heartless clod could really say no to that? Do it for the children, pastor!

But what if a pastor does officiate at this ceremony, and the couple then adopts...and some time later one of the ladies meets a *lad*? Should she be allowed to divorce her same-sex nonsexual "marriage partner" so she can marry the fellow?

This is the craziness we get into if we follow this through, and the Church should know better. We know that no matter what the world says, two female friends does not a marriage make. These two ladies will never become "one flesh" (Mark 10:6-9). Furthermore, the commitment that God requires of a husband and wife – together until death do them part (Rom. 7:2) – is not one He demands of friends. So no, of course a pastor shouldn't officiate such a "wedding."

Thankfully Synod voted 110-71 to recommend only the minority report which took a firmer stance, prohibiting officebearers from participating in any same-sex ceremonies.

But then in the June 23 issue of the CRC's denominational publication, *The Banner*, interim editor Leonard Vander Zee suggested that while it was "understandable" that officebearers not be allowed to officiate at same-sex weddings, it was not reasonable to expect them not to *participate*.

This means, for example, that an elder could be disciplined for offering a prayer at her son's same-sex wedding, a pastor for walking his daughter down the aisle, or a deacon for "standing up" for his sister.

Vander Zee is trying, as the Russians put it, to sit on two horses at the same time. But either same-sex couplings are an affront to God, or they are not. If they are *not* an affront then no one should be troubled at officebearers officiating *or* participating. But if they *are* sinful then it is just as clear that not only should officebearers not officiate, they should never participate. What loving father is going to accompany his daughter down the aisle so she can then commit herself to a relationship that will separate her from God?

We can be thankful that Synod rejected the majority report, but the CRC remains a denomination in crisis.

SOURCE: Aaron Vriesman's "CRC Synod 2016: Belhar, Same-Sex Marriage, and Doctrine of Discovery" posted to *TheAquilaReport.com* June 28; Report from the Committee to Provide Pastoral Guidance re Same-Sex Marriage; Leonard Vander Zee's "Making Room" posted to June 23 to *TheBanner.org*



## IS GOOGLE HELPING HILLARY? EXAMINING CONSPIRACY THEORIES

BY JON DYKSTRA

**A** video making the rounds in June accused Google of manipulating search results to favor Hillary Clinton. The YouTube channel *SourceFed* makes what seemed a plausible and even shocking case, and their report was picked up by other sites including *The Daily Caller*, which called it “a compelling case,” and even the *Washington Times* which characterized it as “an explosive report.”

The accusation is that if you type in “Hillary Clinton ind” then Google’s suggestions *should* point you to “Hillary Clinton indictments,” since so many people are searching for that term (the FBI is currently investigating her). However, the suggestions it actually gives is “Hillary Clinton India” and “Hillary Clinton Indiana.”

So, is this a cover-up? Is Google trying to steer searchers away from unflattering information about Clinton?

No. This turns out to be a good example of how, as Hanlon’s Razor

states, we should not attribute to conspiracy what we can blame on misunderstanding.

It turns out if you type just a couple more letters – Hillary Clinton *indic* – then you do get the suggestion “Hillary Clinton indictment.” So how much effort do we think Google would go to, just to misdirect that small subset of people who are searching for Hillary Clinton’s criminal conduct but who want to stop typing after “Hillary Clinton ind”? Does misdirecting the several, or even half dozen people who fit this description seem like something anyone would devote any time to?

If Google is manipulating results, then they are doing the same thing for Donald Trump. As the site *Mediaite.com* pointed out, when you type in “Donald Trump bigo” Google offers no suggestions despite the many thousands and likely millions who have called him a bigot online. It would seem Google is sanitizing its suggestions for both Democrats and Republicans.



So, no evidence of a conspiracy.

Why does this matter? Because there are real conspiracies. There are government bureaucrats working hard to “co-parent” our children. There are education officials trying to teach our children the very sorts of sexual perversion that parents are trying to protect them from. There are politicians touting safeguards for euthanasia that they know aren’t safe, and won’t guard anyone. There are conspiracies and people need to be warned about them.

But if we start crying “Conspiracy!” any time there is something seemingly odd going on, then like the boy who cried “Wolf!,” we will blow our credibility for when the real thing appears.

SOURCE: SourceFed’s YouTube channel, Youtube.com/user/SourceFed, “Did Google manipulate search for Hillary?” posted June 9; Image is a screen grab from the SourceFed video; Valerie Richardson’s “Google accused of manipulating searches, burying negative stories about Hillary Clinton” posted to WashingtonTimes.com on June 9.

## BREXIT: BRITAIN VOTES TO LEAVE THE EUROPEAN UNION

BY JON DYKSTRA

**S**everal conservative Christian commentators were celebrating when a slim majority of 52% of British citizens voted to take their country out of the European Union (EU) on June 23rd. But why were they celebrating “Brexit” (aka Britain’s exit)?

At first glance this didn’t seem the sort of issue on which there could be a Christian position. We can find passages in the Bible forbidding murder and stealing, but where do we find anything about the good or bad of belonging to the European Union?

As pro-life apologist Jonathon Van Maren pointed out in a *TheBridgeHead.ca* blog post, a good biblical case can be made against involvement with the EU based on their callous disregard for human life.

The European Union is constantly used as a tool by abortion activists to force abortion on nations that still

restrict or ban it.

In his post, titled “Six reasons Christians should be happy about the Brexit victory” Van Maren also noted the EU has been involved in “relentless promotion of gay marriage,” and has been used to promote LGBT activism both within and beyond the EU’s boundaries.

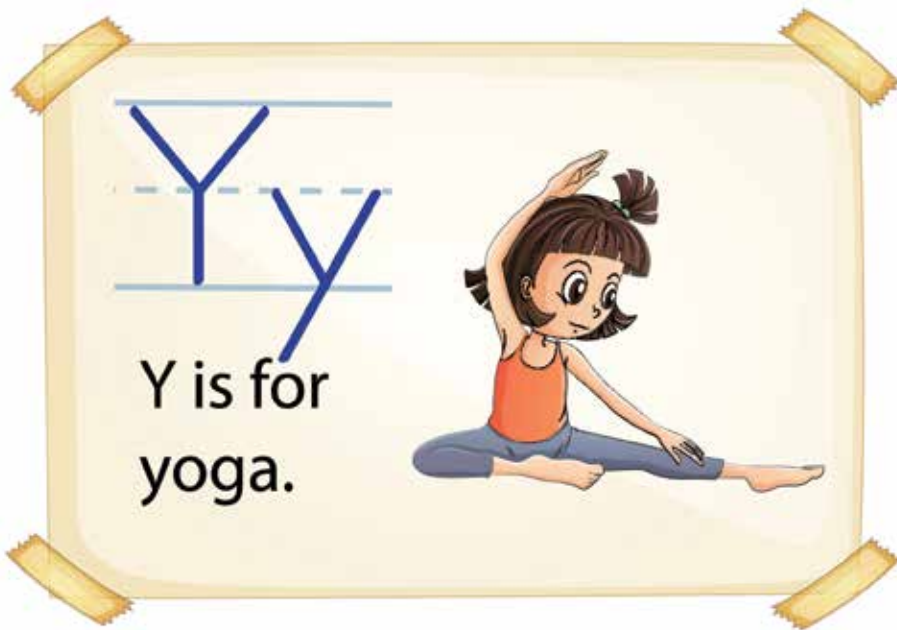
Reformed filmmaker Colin Gunn noted that by leaving, “Britain just destroyed a whole layer of government bureaucracy overnight!” While the Christian case against a centralized government is hard to make in just a few words, a Christian understanding of man’s limitations – that we are both fallible and sinful – runs against the idea of concentrating and centralizing power (see 1 Samuel 8:10-22 and the entire book of Judges).

As Van Maren notes, the EU has been involved in suppressing criticism of homosexuality. Now if one country



suppresses free speech, the suppressed could still pursue freedom of speech by fleeing to a neighboring country. But what if this neighbor was ruled by the same free-speech suppressing bureaucrats? The more extensive the centralization – the more countries under the one umbrella – the less freedom available for any who disagree.

Of course Britain is also guilty of suppressing speech; they have prosecuted Christian bakers and hotel owners and street preachers. So while there does seem reason for Christians to celebrate Britain’s exit, “Brexit” leaves us with a question: now that the British are free from EU oversight, will they put their new freedom to good use?



# DO WHAT THE GURU SAYS?

*Substituting at public schools reinforced the value of our Christian schools*

by Sharon L. Bratcher

If I've ever wondered why we spend so much effort on our Christian education, it's become clearer recently, since I've been doing some substitute teaching in several of Michigan's public schools.

## HOP, STOP...AND DON'T ASK ANY QUESTIONS

Some of the reasons are obvious. While the Bible can't be read in these schools, I've observed a fifth grade teacher reading to her class from a horoscope book every morning.

Others are harder to spot, but important too. Recently, one of the early elementary schools here performed *Cows in the Kitchen*, a musical folktale about a family that is very noisy. So the parents go to the wise man on the mountain – the Guru – who tells them to bring various animals into their home. When it becomes intolerable, he tells them to remove the animals and thus they learn to appreciate having *only* their family's noise within. At one point the Kindergarten kids sing

*Do what the Guru says  
Do what the Guru says  
Do what the Guru says  
What he says to do.  
Hop – we hop.  
Stop – we stop.  
We will do what he says to do.*

All in fun? Certainly, to the 5-year-olds it was. But consider this: these children haven't been told where true wisdom can be found, and they haven't been told about the only One to whom such unquestioning

obedience is actually due. What we have here are children deliberately starved of any spiritual direction, told to sing a little ditty about blindly following the directions of a mere man.

## PUBLIC SCHOOL SPIRITUALITY

I've also run across numerous public school districts that have adopted Stephen Covey's *7 Habits of Highly Effective People / Kids* as their core value system for their students. While many aspects of the *7 Habits* could be combined with Scripture as a list of "how to act" (plan ahead, be diligent, consider others first, work together), the poster for Habit #7 "Sharpen the Saw" features an Asian woman in the well-recognized yoga lotus position, and the text under the "Soul" section reads:

### The Spiritual Dimension

- Meditate
- keep a journal
- take in quality media

These are all good ideas but this spiritual dimension doesn't even mention a "higher being" let alone God. While the entire *7 Habits* system may seem beneficial for giving non-Christians *something* to use to manage the kids' behavior, it emphasizes the great abilities of the individual person, and it ends up being a value system that has "a form of godliness, but denies its power" (2 Tim. 3:5).

## THE CONTRAST

Other Michigan schools are considering adding yoga to their elementary curriculum as well, according to a *National*

*Public Radio* newscast, in an effort to help students de-stress. I saw this in one Detroit-area school. A class of 25 fourth graders was escorted to the gymnasium for their yoga lesson. When the CD player wouldn't work the teacher repeatedly yelled loudly at the students to sit still and be quiet. (It seemed a bit ironic.) One girl sat off to the side on a chair. "My parents don't allow me to take yoga," she said sadly. The question that remained unanswered was whether her parents realized that she was required to sit in the gym for 30 minutes while the others participated.

Contrast this with a recent Christian school's spring concert that included the entire school – including Kindergartners – singing:

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, give  
thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus  
Christ our Lord  
And now, let the poor say, 'I am rich', let  
the weak say 'I am strong'  
Because of what the Lord has done for us  
– Give thanks*

The point is, that with a great teacher, a young child learns not only to respect, but to love that teacher and accept everything that she or he has to say. While the students may be able to learn their 3 R's in the public school, they will always, always be influenced by the life philosophy of their teacher as well.

We are so very blessed to have schools and teachers who will point our children to God. RP

# THE BIBLE CONSPIRACY REFUTED

Why would 4<sup>th</sup> century propagandists include a book about a woman returning from abroad with her daughter-in-law?

by Rob Slane

*This following is an excerpt from Rob Slane's new book, A Christian and an Unbeliever Discuss: Life, the Universe & Everything. We're joining a conversation, already in progress, between an committed atheist, Alex, and the Christian who is trying to talk him down.*

## A COBBLED CONSPIRACY?

"Look," said Alex, "everyone knows that the Bible was cobbled together in some shadowy council 300-odd years after Jesus was supposed to have died."

"Hold on a minute, Alex," I replied. "Are you suggesting that the Bible is the product of some kind of conspiracy?"

"If that's what you want to call it," he replied.

"So let me get this straight," I said. "A moment or two ago, you were calling the Bible a hotchpotch of writings by men who never knew each other, which kind of suggests that the literature involved was diverse, to say the least. But now you are telling me, unless I'm very much mistaken, that when the canon of Scripture was agreed upon, it was done so by people whose aims were to brainwash people. Is that about right?"

"In a nutshell," he retorted.

"But you must see that it can't be both."

"I do not see that," he replied. "Why

should I see that?"

"Well, on the one hand, you're charging the Bible with the heinous crime of being written by a group of very different people over a very long period of time, but now you're charging it with being effectively "published" by another group of men who were somehow able to take this bunch of totally different literature written in very different styles and cobble it together in order to control the masses by asserting that it is divine in origin."

Once again, Alex looked distinctly unimpressed, so I put it to him that he should try the same experiment with other forms and periods of literature to see if it could be done. Choose a period of history, say the Greeks and the Romans. Take a large dollop of Plato and Aristotle, add some Homer and Virgil, stir in Julius Caesar's *Gallic Wars*, mix it together with some Seneca and Cicero and finally season with the letters of Pliny. When you've mixed it all together into one book, go out and sell it to men as a revelation from God, replete with complete unity of purpose and message.

Or if the ancients don't appeal, try a more modern recipe. Take the "prophetical" writings of Orwell and Huxley, chuck in some songs by

maybe Bob Dylan and John Lennon, put it in the blender with a bit of Dylan Thomas, stir in a speech or two by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and then add a pinch of something bitter, like a bit of Solzhenitsyn. Again, try to sell it as a book with a single theme written under divine inspiration. You can't do it, because there is no unity there. But somehow the Bible does exactly this: it takes the writings of a hotchpotch of different men, living over a 1,500-year period and writing in a range of literary genres and styles, and still manages to come up with a book which has a unity of theme throughout.

*"Are you suggesting that the Bible is the product of some kind of conspiracy?"*





## LAUGHABLE

“Tell me, Alex, the writers of the Scripture and the men who met to agree the canon – who were they attempting to brainwash?”

“Anyone gullible enough to swallow it,” he replied.

“Okay, so can you tell me what was in it for those you are talking about? I mean, when Moses wrote the Pentateuch or when Solomon wrote the Proverbs, were they thinking to themselves, ‘Ha! This’ll force those gullible fools several millennia down the line into subservience’? If so, why? What was in it for them? And what about those who met to agree on the canon? Have you ever read the book of Ruth? What on earth is a book about a woman returning from abroad with her mother-in-law and eventually getting married doing in a book compiled together by fourth-century propagandists? And what did they think they were playing at when they included the Song of Solomon, a book condemned by many Jews and later the Victorian moralists as impure and dirty? If there’s brainwashing there, I’m not entirely sure how it is done, why it is done and what exactly its goal is. But then again, I suppose if I’ve been properly brainwashed by it, I wouldn’t know, would I? So perhaps you can tell me.”

“The purpose is to make us all good little citizens who do exactly what we’re told without ever questioning anything. Just like Marx said – the opium of the masses.”

When he said this I’m afraid I just couldn’t stop myself from bursting out laughing. Somewhat taken aback, Alex asked what exactly it was that was causing me so much mirth. So I replied that here I was, living in a world that is currently adopting practically every doctrine of Marxism without even knowing it, where the State is virtually worshipped by millions, and here he was using Marx’s charge of brainwashing and oppression against Christianity.

He asked me what on earth I meant, so I gave him just a few examples:

Whom do we look to for the education of our children? The State. Whom do we look to for healing when we are sick? The State. Whom do we look to for provision in our old age? The State. Whom do we look to for “advice” on what is and what isn’t healthy? The State. Who comes up with miles and miles of regulations to make sure we are safe and happy? The State. Who deliberately destroys the family and then takes it upon itself to become a surrogate father to the millions

of fatherless children it creates? All this and more, in direct accordance with the ideology espoused by the man who claimed that Christianity was a tool used by those in power for brainwashing and oppressing the people.

*A Christian & an Unbeliever Discuss: Life, the Universe & Everything, is available at Amazon.ca. This excerpt is reprinted here with permission.*

### The Reformed Churches Bible College in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea is looking for a Principal.

The RCBC was established in 2007 and has been blessed with many graduates, who are able to serve the PNG churches in many capacities including elders and most recently as ordained pastors.

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# { IN A TIDBITS RELEVANT, AND NOT SO, TO CHRISTIAN LIFE } NUTSHELL

BY JON DYKSTRA

## THE TOLERANCE BUZZSAW

"The diversity crowd has two fundamental tenets. The first is that they have an absolute commitment to free speech. And the second is, 'Shut up!'"

- Douglas Wilson

## HOW IDOLATRY SNEAKS UP ON US

We aren't in any danger of bowing to big stone statues, or wooden totems – that sort of obvious idolatry isn't going to trip us up. But there is another sort that sometimes catches us unawares, which Luke Gilkerson describes in his new (and excellent) book *Parenting the Internet Generation*:

The things we turn into idols are often not, in themselves, bad things. Most of the time they are good things that have become ultimate things to us – anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give. An idol is most often a good desire that has become a very bad master.

Family is important, and friends too. A successful business can employ many, and allow you to donate generous sums to God's work. A running or workout routine can help keep you healthy. Christian political activism can save unborn lives. These are good, wonderful, and important things, and that is precisely where the danger lies. Clear evils sometimes grab hold of us – many professing Christians are hooked on pornography – but then we at least understand (hopefully!) that a battle needs to be fought. However, when the idol is something good, then the devil can hit us with a more subtle attack. All he wants us to do is bump up a secondary priority one notch.

## WHY ARE THINGS SO BAD?

Aleksander Solzhenitsyn (1918-2008) was a Russian historian, most famous for his three volume *The Gulag Archipelago*, which recounted his own, and others', experience in the Soviet Union's cruel forced labor prison camps. His lifetime spanned the complete history of the Soviet Union, so he was often asked to explain why it was that the USSR became the horror that it did. In his 1983 Templeton Address he credited it to one thing:

More than half a century ago, while I was still a child, I recall hearing a number of older people offer the following explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia: *Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened.*

Since then I have spent well-nigh 50 years... I have read hundreds of books, collected hundreds of personal testimonies, and have already contributed eight volumes of my own toward the effort of clearing away the rubble

left by that upheaval. But if I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible the main cause of the ruinous Revolution that swallowed up some 60 million of our people, I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: *Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened.*

What is more, the events of the Russian Revolution can only be understood now, at the end of the century, against the background of what has since occurred in the rest of the world. What emerges here is a process of universal significance. And if I were called upon to identify briefly the principal trait of the entire twentieth century, here too, I would be unable to find anything more precise and pithy than to repeat once again: *Men have forgotten God.*

## TWO JESTS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

A horse walks into a bar and orders ten beers which he quickly downs. The bartender says, "Wow – don't you think you're drinking too much?" The horse ponders for a minute and then responds, "I don't think I am." And poof, he disappears.

It's at this point that the philosophy students reading this joke start to snicker, familiar as they are with Descartes' postulate: "I think, therefore I am."

The rest of us might have wished for some mention of the postulate right at the start. But that that would have been putting Descartes before the horse.

SOURCE: A Joke making its way around the Internet

## IF IT CAN'T BE BAD, IT CAN'T BE GOOD

"Where people might say, 'well, that's a bad Hopper, or a bad El Greco,' I've never seen anyone say 'that's a bad Pollock.' Either they're all bad, or they're all good."


- Robert Cenedella summing up why abstract paintings, such as the work of Jackson Pollock, aren't really art.

PICTURE CREDIT: nefali / Shutterstock.com



In 2010 the US issued a stamp honoring Jackson Pollock and Abstract Expressionism, featuring his painting *Convergence*. But is this Pollock at his best? Or at his worst?



A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a light blue shirt, holding a baby in her arms. A young child with dark hair, wearing a blue and white striped tank top, is leaning over the baby, looking at it. The background is a warm, orange-toned wall.

How many children are we  
able to have?

# CHILDREN: A CALLING AND A BLESSING

## A CAREFUL LOOK AT THE ISSUE OF BIRTH CONTROL

by Rev. and Lael Griess

God calls the Reformed husband and wife to bear children. Just as marriage is a creation ordinance, so God's calling to bear children is a creation ordinance. Strikingly, the first thing God says after He creates the woman for the man is that together in their marriage they must bear children: "Be fruitful, and multiply" (Gen 1:28). This command necessitates a link between marital intimacy and the begetting of children (if God in His Providence grants that possibility).<sup>1</sup>

For the Reformed couple, this calling intensifies as they see from Scripture that God is pleased to carry on His covenant of structured fellowship also with the children of believers (Gen 7:7, Acts 2:39). Due to this promise, the Scriptures lay further weight upon God's people to bear children (see Malachi 2:15 "And did not he make one?...And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed" and also 1 Timothy 5:14).

Not only is bearing children a calling, but the Reformed couple also gleans from Scripture that children (many!) are a blessing from God (Psalm 127:3, 5; Psalm 128:3-4). When the Lord grants little ones to His church, their presence stands as a reminder of His love and favor and covenant promises.

This does not mean the bearing of children is easy. God's curse for sin affects all things, and this aspect of life in particular (Gen 3:16-19). While God has not made bearing and raising children itself a curse, his curse *affects* the bearing and raising of children. God has, due to sin, greatly increased a woman's sorrow in bearing children, and at the same time increased her ability to bear them. The curse has also affected the husband's calling to support those children. The creation from which he must derive their support works against Him instead of with him.

### REGARDING THE USE OF BIRTH CONTROL GENERALLY

The first two truths (that bearing children is both a calling and a blessing) almost put the issue of birth control to rest for God's people. Indeed, some couples will conclude it is best to never prevent or plan the conception of children. If these couples faithfully raise all the children they bear unto the Lord, then the whole church is thankful for their godly example and prays for more of their kind.

However, as much as we want to caution against its use, we would argue that the reality of the curse of God for sin may allow for the careful use of (some forms of) birth control in some cases.<sup>2</sup> But because selfishness can quickly exploit even that statement, we begin discussing this matter by addressing the heart.



### Why would we prevent the birth of children?

Birth control broadly defined is anything that can prevent the birth of children.<sup>3</sup> There are ethically legitimate and ethically illegitimate methods of birth control. However, even if one allows for the use of ethically legitimate methods of birth control in some cases, he must recognize they can be and often are used wickedly. The issue begins in the motives of the heart. The great question everyone has to ask (including newly married couples who are expected by so many to wait at least a year or two to have children) is: “Why? Why would I prevent the birth of children into my covenant home?” And the Reformed couple must answer this question honestly, for we easily deceive ourselves (Jer. 17:9).

As the Reformed couple engages in this heart-probing, consider that the very origin of chemical birth control was the constant push for sex without responsibility in society. It’s not just *necessity*, but the *desire for pleasure*, that is the mother of invention. Google a chart of birth rates in United States history, and you will see that the line plummets after 1960 when chemical birth control went on the market, and that the line continues to steadily drop until it arrives at its lowest point in 2015.<sup>4</sup>

The ever-increasing desire for pleasure combined with the ever-decreasing desire for responsibility in the world can affect us as Reformed Christians too. So as you answer “why would we prevent the birth of children?” consider the following kinds of questions:

- Do we seek a standard of living that far exceeds even that of our parents and grandparents in their child-bearing years (not to mention that of the vast majority of the rest of the world)?
- Have materialism, worldly comforts, and extravagant vacations clouded our thinking? God doesn’t desire that His children be at ease, but that they joyfully and self-sacrificially serve Him by raising children, all the while detaching from the things of this world.
- Are we selfishly guarding a worldly notion of marriage?
- Are we stingy with respect to our time?

## ...there is no biblical rule as to when each couple’s quiver is full

Children require a tremendous sacrifice of time and energy – often around the clock. This sacrifice means less time fishing, hanging out with the guys, or sitting in front of the television or computer.

- Wives, is your view of physical beauty defined by the world? For a woman having children involves a sacrifice not only of her time and personal desires, but also her very body. After several children, she may look in the mirror and feel embarrassed about the dramatic changes she sees.
- Husbands, do you assure your wife that she has not been “ruined” as the world would say, but that she is beautiful with a beauty that the world cannot see?

### We can’t say for another couple

That said, there is no biblical rule as to when each couple’s quiver is full, and due to the reality of the curse upon life in this world, there are factors that a couple may legitimately consider in thinking about family planning. A mother may face health issues, even ones that can endanger her life and lives of future children (just a few examples include multiple c-sections, extreme diabetes, and cancer). The mental and emotional health of especially the mother may have to be considered (taking care not to cover up selfishness). Postpartum depression is a real issue. In addition, some women are simply physically and emotionally frailer than others. Maybe there is a child (or children) with special needs requiring a great deal of time and energy. Maybe the house is full and teetering on the edge of Mom and Dad’s ability to faithfully rear the children. In these cases (and perhaps others), we believe God’s people have to make judgments with much prayer and soul-searching.

This matter is intensely difficult, especially because the old man inside

us can be so deceptive. Even sincere Reformed believers may disagree. We must all use sanctified wisdom and live *coram Deo* (before the face of God). The rule we believe is biblical is that we ought to have as many children as we are *able* to have, understanding “able” to mean not merely as many as we can have without cramping our lifestyle, nor meaning necessarily as many as we are able to physically produce. Rather, “able” means, able to faithfully raise in the fear of the Lord.<sup>5</sup>

Each couple must stand before God. If a couple’s honest answer to that is three, so be it. If it is fifteen, or as many as we are physically able to bear, so be it. The key principle is that we are honest with ourselves before God and are vigilantly on the lookout for selfish motives hiding under the pretense of spiritual ones. And we ought to pray that the preaching ever warn us of that possibility.

### WHAT BIRTH CONTROL IS ETHICALLY PERMISSIBLE?

If a couple before the face of God honestly believes they ought to use birth control at a certain time in their life, what forms are ethically acceptable? All Reformed couples ought to personally research the matter in order to make God-honoring decisions. Here is what we have discovered in our own research.<sup>6</sup>

#### “Emergency contraception”

First of all, we must begin with the conviction that life begins at conception.<sup>7</sup> So many doctors (some Christian ones too), speak of life beginning at various other points in the growth process of the fertilized egg. What one says about when life begins will determine what one says about what forms of birth control are ethically permissible.<sup>8</sup>

All forms of chemical birth control that are taken after intercourse, such as the “morning after pill,” RU-486, “emergency contraception,” etc., are abortifacients (drugs which induce abortion). Using these drugs after intercourse, and if you have conceived (which one does not know) is no different from going into an abortion clinic to kill your child a few months later. It is murder.

### Other forms of chemical birth control

Regarding chemical birth control one takes regularly, such as the birth control pill (whether combined or progestin only), shots, and IUDs, the Reformed couple must be aware of the facts. According to the recently published *God Marriage and Family*<sup>9</sup> these common forms of chemical birth control work to prevent the birth of a child three ways. The first is by preventing an egg from being released. The second is by thickening the cervical mucus so that the sperm cannot reach the egg if an egg is released anyway (which some experts estimate happens as often as 50 percent of the time). The third is by making the lining of the uterus *incapable of supporting the life of a newly conceived child* given the first two methods fail.

There is no ethical issue in itself with the first two actions of the pill. But the third causes an abortion. So the question becomes, do the first two methods of the pill ever fail? We quote from the book mentioned above,

Statistically speaking, when taken as directed, these various types of hormone based birth control methods are effective (*in their first two lines of defense—that is preventing conception CG*) 99.5 percent of the time.... From this fact one can know for certain that while “the pill” is effective in preventing ovulation and preventing fertilization, it does not prevent all fertilization. While there is no statistical data to indicate how many births are terminated by the third mechanism, one can be assured that it does occur.”<sup>10</sup>

Though admittedly, the possibility of breaking the sixth commandment here is small, it is still a possibility, and therefore chemical birth control ought not be used by the child of God.<sup>11</sup>

This leaves only three ethically legitimate methods: natural family planning, barrier methods, and surgical sterilization.<sup>12</sup>

### CONCLUSION

As with every matter in the Christian life, obedience begins in the heart. A heart that responds to the gospel of



“Why? Why would I prevent the birth of children into my covenant home?”

redeeming grace is filled with gratitude. Gratitude needs a riverbed to flow into. That riverbed is the law of God. We hope we have given some help in determining what God’s law is and is not in these matters, and in setting forth the principles by which we may live in godliness. May God bless us as we live before His face as husband and wife, and as we bring up the godly seed He so graciously gives us. RP

### ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> This is not the *only* purpose of marital intimacy as the Roman Catholic Church wrongly teaches (among other passages see 1 Corinthians 7:5 and The Song of Solomon). Otherwise a couple who could not bear children would be required to abstain from marital intimacy. Neither does it imply that every act of marital intimacy must have the possibility of conception. However, it does mean a couple must seek to bear children in their marriage.

<sup>2</sup> The argument to the contrary from the case of Onan in Genesis 38 does not take into consideration the issues of levirate marriage involved in that passage.

<sup>3</sup> This includes everything that prevents conception, to the murder of children conceived but not yet born.

<sup>4</sup> 1.8 children per woman, and it’s only that high because of the Hispanic population.

<sup>5</sup> We understand even the question of what it means to faithfully raise children in the fear of the Lord will garner disagreement. This aspect too bears serious consideration and discussion as each couple stands before God.

<sup>6</sup> It would be worthwhile to read a portion of the book *God Marriage and Family* we refer to a few paragraphs later. Pages 123-129 are germane. Another worthwhile resource is the book, *Does the Birth*

*Control Pill Cause Abortions?* by Randy Alcorn. In addition to those sources we have conferred with believing doctors we know personally.

<sup>7</sup> This is another article, but the main reason for this position is conclusive. At the moment of fertilization there is a complete genome (determining gender, eye color, height, body type, etc) in the new being. Therefore, the new being is another individual life separate from that of the father and mother. If an individual being with a complete genome, separate from the life of the mother and father is not a separate *life*, then what is it?

<sup>8</sup> If you ask a doctor (even some Christian ones) if a particular form of birth control causes an abortion he may say no, but that may be because he believes life does not begin at conception. He may also further confuse the issue by stating that this particular drug cannot terminate a pregnancy. This is because he may define *pregnancy* as beginning later than the moment of conception.

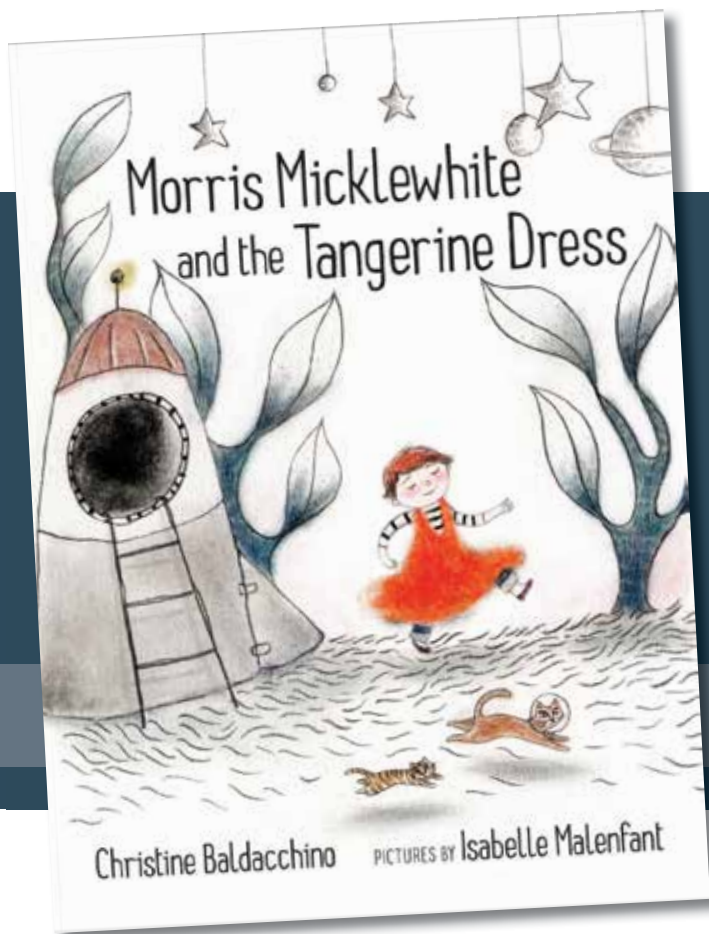
<sup>9</sup> The authors cite their credible medical sources.

<sup>10</sup> Kostenberger, Andreas J., and David W. Jones. *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*. 2nd ed. Wheaton: Crossway, 2010. 337, footnote 29. Print.

<sup>11</sup> There are some Christian women who take birth control pills as medicine for other physical maladies. If that is you, then you ought to also use barrier methods of birth control to prevent the possibility of breaking the sixth commandment.

<sup>12</sup> We are not now saying anything about whether or not these should be used in any individual case, we are merely stating that these are the only ethical forms to use.

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# Micklewhite or Mickleblack?

by Christine Farenhorst

It was a beautiful day. The temperature had soared to eighty degrees plus and one of our daughters and four of our grandchildren were over for a few days. Together we watched the Baltimore oriole as he perched on the hummingbird feeder and pecked at a slice of orange. The downy woodpecker showed up as well as the cardinal and an indigo bunting. We carefully tiptoed past a ruffed grouse sitting on its eleven eggs.

Here in our backyard was a wonderful array of color and sound made by the fifth-day creatures God has made. And we, the sixth-day image-bearers of Himself were privileged to see and hear them. It was a work-holiday. The kids helped us with raking, gathering up leftover leaves from last autumn, as well as mowing huge swaths of lawn. Our daughter straightened flowerbeds, and weeded. And afterwards there was swimming and splashing in the pool. Children and grandchildren are truly a marvel!

After supper, Tirzah, our daughter's youngest child, was ready to curl up on the sofa next to her Mom for some

before-bedtime reading. It's my wont to always visit the library prior to a visit, if I know about it, and to stock up on a variety of books. Tirzeh and her Mom were rummaging through the pile and I was putting away some laundry. Half-way up the stairs with an armload of towels, sheets and shirts, I heard my daughter call out. "Mom!!"

I paused. Was there a problem!? She called out again. Actually it was more like a yell. "Mom – this is awful!"

I turned, descended the stairs, still carrying the laundry.

"Have you looked at this book, Mom?"

I was in the hall by now, searching my brain as to what she was talking about. Entering the living room the most aghast look of the twenty-first century hit me.

*"Mom, did you know that you took out a book on cross-dressing?"*

"Mom, did you know that you took out a book on cross-dressing?"

"No," I responded, and truly I had not known it. Then I recalled that when I had gone to the library the previous Saturday, it had unfortunately been fifteen minutes before closing time. Quickly scanning the shelves, first for literature for the older grandchildren (and becoming rather engrossed in some of these volumes), I had been nudged by the librarian that they were closing and that it was time to leave. Running into the children's section of the branch, I had raced around the room taking all the display books off the racks. I figured that these were likely popular favorites and probably indicated good reading. Obviously it was not a well-thought out assumption!

"Mom! This book is horrible! Do you know what it's called?"

I shook my head: "No, I don't."

"*Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress!*"

Cute name, Morris Micklewhite, but the glaring truth was that it was a boy's name – and boys, unless they are Scottish and kilt-oriented, ought not to wear



dresses. Deuteronomy 22:5 is very clear on that: "A woman is not to wear male clothing, and a man is not to put on a woman's garment, for everyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord your God." I'm very thankful that my daughter is a conscientious child of the covenant and that she recognizes evil when it approaches, even under the innocent guise of a child's book cover. There are, sadly enough, a number of Morris Micklewhites in the world.

## BRUCE

Bruce Jenner was born on October 28, 1949, in New York. This means that he will be 67 years old this fall. Like all children, Bruce was sent to school when he turned 6. Dyslexic, Bruce had trouble with spelling, reading and grammar and disliked school very much. Not diagnosed until the fifth grade, he had nightmares about the teacher having him read in front of class. Like Morris Micklewhite, he had to overcome certain fears about going to school.

But Bruce managed to complete grades one through twelve. Not an academic, he turned all his energies into outdoor activities. He had such a penchant for sports, as a matter of fact, that he earned a football scholarship in 1968 which allowed him to attend Graceland College in Iowa even though his grades were not very good. A knee injury, however, soon forced him to stop playing the sport of football in which he excelled.

Worried about losing his scholarship and being drafted into the US army, he changed his sports focus. Having a natural gift for track and field, Bruce made the switch to the decathlon. In 1973 he graduated from Graceland College with a degree in physical education. He married his highschool sweetheart, a minister's daughter, and set his mind on training for the Olympics. His wife, a flight attendant, worked, even as Bruce trained during the day, selling some insurance on the side. Although he finished tenth in the 1972 summer Olympic Games in Germany, his rigorous day training eventually paid off and he won the decathlon gold medal at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal.

Rugged and tough, Bruce was built like a natural athlete. Had he lived during King David's time, he possibly would have qualified as one of his mighty men. But after winning the gold medal, muscular Bruce Jenner settled for being the spokesperson for Wheaties breakfast cereal for several years, posing for the cover of the box. This supposedly encouraged buyers to think, "If you eat this cereal, you could possibly be as brawny and sports-oriented as Bruce Jenner." He also drank orange juice for Tropicana and took pictures for Minolta. Six foot two and 194 pounds of well-distributed muscle, he gradually evolved into a public advertising idol.

It paid his bills. It made him rich. Outside of the athletic arena Bruce Jenner was making more money from winning that single gold medal than any other athlete had before him. He continued to be in demand for countless commercials, promotions, and public appearances. All this publicity took a heavy toll on his marriage – a marriage which dissolved in 1980.

In the wake of his broken marriage, Bruce turned to a film and television career, and married again. During the next five years, he also became a successful racecar driver. Then there was another divorce and another marriage. In all, he fathered six children – two by each of his three marriages. Truly the man was a broken puzzle, a sad book to read!

## BAD TO WORSE

The 2015 chapter in Bruce Jenner's life, however, was the saddest one yet - on page April of this chapter he announced that, like Morris Micklewhite of the children's literature, he wanted to wear a dress. In other words, he announced that he was transitioning into a woman, a yearning which, he said, had always lived within himself. Although he had been created a male by the Lord God, Bruce Jenner questioned his Creator's decision, rebelling against it. Changing his name from Bruce Jenner to Caitlyn Jenner, he went on to pose, two months later, for the cover of *Vanity Fair*, as a female.

As to be expected, Bruce was praised for his "courageous" action by all those

who love evil. That same year of 2015 saw him as the winner of the Social Media Queen award; *Glamour* magazine named him one of its 25 glamour women of the year; in December he was named "Barbara Walter's most fascinating person of 2015" and he was on the *Time's* short-list for the 2015 person of the year.

Looking back on his athletic career, it would appear that Bruce had been dissatisfied with it, that he'd had no long-term goal for which to aim. He is quoted as saying: "I spent twelve years training for a career that was over in a week." And apparently having no handle on who he is as a male person made in the image of God, he referred to his transition as a "female" by saying: "I'm so happy after such a long struggle to be living my true self."

## CONCLUSION

What a sad thing to so blatantly disregard God's good intentions for one's life! Healthy and wealthy, he fell far short of being wise, fell far short of fearing God. Throughout all this there is no doubt that Bruce Jenner is looking for meaning, searching for fulfillment, but he will fall flat on his face unless he acknowledges that the only meaning in life is to be found in our Lord Jesus Christ; that the only fulfillment is to praise God and enjoy Him forever. God have mercy on the Micklewhites of the world. They will never find peace following the intention of their own base hearts and the prodding of the devil's evil strategies.

Recent newspaper reports seem to indicate that Bruce Jenner is not happy; that he is depressed; and that he possibly plans to de-transition back to the male person which God made him. May God, in His great mercy, open the eyes of his heart!

All this to say that no matter how cute little boys can look in tangerine skirts, we do well to remember that the words of Deuteronomy 22:5 are not cute, are not to be dismissed lightly. A person detestable to God lives in darkness and the Micklewhites of the world are heading for eternal darkness. **RP**



# TO THE NEWLY MARRIED:

## Husbands, turn off the TV and exult in your wife!

by Sam Powell

**T**here is a fascinating verse in Deuteronomy. It isn't marriage advice; it is a marriage command.

When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken.<sup>1</sup> (Deu 24:5 KJV)

The command is for a newly married husband to refrain from anything that takes him away from his home for a

year. And the purpose of this command is so that he can “cheer up” his wife.

That's an unfortunate translation. It means something in English that it doesn't mean in Hebrew. In Hebrew the basic meaning of the word is to rejoice, to exult. In the form that the word is in, it means to cause that state in someone. In other words, the husband is to “make his wife rejoice.”

### WHAT MAKES HER TICK?

This is where it gets endlessly wonderful. Women are fascinating

creatures; each one created just a little different. They are almost like a puzzle to be solved. God created men and women in such a way that you can't really learn about your spouse through a how-to book or even a class. Of course, everyone wants a shortcut, especially since we now live in a cursed world. But God didn't change his creation because we became shortsighted, self-absorbed narcissists. The rule still applies. If you want a blessed and beneficial marriage, learn how to make your wife exult. What makes her

tick? What does she fear? What does she dream of?

Do you know?

Peter wrote that we are to live with our wives with understanding (1 Peter 3:7), which is also what Moses is saying. Learn about your wife. Understand her. Think of it: God made marriage in such a way that you can only truly be blessed and happy if you learn to get to know someone other than yourself, and there are no shortcuts. You actually have to take the time to do it.

### IT ISN'T HARD WORK

But, contrary to millions of self-appointed marriage gurus, it isn't "hard work", any more than sanctification is hard work. Rather, it is growth, joy, love, pressing toward the mark with uplifted head. We aren't slaves drudging through mines, but children on our way to glory! What better way to picture this great truth than the marriage of two lovers, learning to exult in one another.

Oscar Wilde wrote, "Women aren't meant to be understood; they are meant to be loved." But this is the raving of a narcissist who thinks very highly of himself. Guys, do away with the jokes about not understanding women. You are commanded to do just that. But to do that you have to put off your own self-absorption, and figure out how to listen. Listen with your ears, with your eyes, even with your finger-tips. She'll let you know what causes her to exult, but you have to tune in.

The Bible says that you have a year. I always counsel newly-weds to turn the TV off and hole up together as much as possible for the first year. Don't try to learn about your wife from stereotypes, books (especially of the "women's place is in the home" variety) or locker room gossip. This is your wife you are learning about and she is the only one who can show you what causes her to exult. You are on a wonderful journey of discovery together.

### REPENTANCE

In this day, one of the most prevalent ways to destroy the mystery and delight


*...turn the TV off and hole up together as much as possible for the first year.*

of loving a woman is pornography. If you cannot tell the difference between the sexual assault that is pornography and a loving relationship that is marriage, then please do not get married. Instead, repent and deal with your own abuse issues before you inflict yourself upon an unsuspecting wife. Marriage won't cure your pornography issues. Only repentance will. You cannot learn how to cause a woman to rejoice by watching pornography. God did not create either you or her that

way. There is no shortcut. You must put off yourself and your own lusts and actually learn to care about another person, namely, your wife.

The fascinating thing about marriage is that the learning never ends. Love and friendship and even romance blooms and grows more intense each year – once you learn how to listen.

If you have been married for a while and find your love growing stagnant, it is probably because you didn't heed God's command. Repent and ask your wife's forgiveness for failing to understand her. Then start your year now. Turn the TV off. Give up boys' nights out, and learn how to cause your wife to rejoice. It may not be too late.

Isn't Hebrew fascinating? 

*Rev. Sam Powell is a pastor in the Reformed Churches of the United States.*

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This is a challenging and interesting job.

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Please email resume to [johno@jmcpackaging.com](mailto:johno@jmcpackaging.com).



# NEW SPIN, SAME FLAWED RESEARCH

by Mark Penninga

## Exposing the poor research fueling the anti-spanking campaign

*“Spanking is linked to aggression, antisocial behavior, mental health problems, cognitive difficulties, low self esteem, and a host of other negative outcomes.”*

So declared a recent news article from *Good Housekeeping*. This was one of dozens of articles that reported on the results of the latest overview of research on physical discipline. Not only does this 2016 overview condemn spanking, it went out of its way to make the case that its results also apply to the type of physical discipline that is both legal and commonly practiced. In other words, all forms of spanking are bad all the time.<sup>1</sup>

So where does this new research leave all those who thought that physical discipline can be beneficial and appropriate when done in a controlled and loving way? The answer matters a lot, especially since the anti-spanking movement has received a lot of momentum in Canada. During the last election the Liberal party promised that, if elected, it would get rid of Section 43 of our Criminal Code – this is the section that allows parents to use appropriate physical discipline. If it goes, the result will be that all parents who use physical discipline will be treated by the law as criminals and abusers.

A closer look at the research reveals that our confidence in the appropriateness and legality of physical discipline doesn't need to be shaken. It is vital that we educate our neighbors, and especially our legislators, with this truth, before it's too late.

### NEW SPIN – SAME FLAWED RESEARCH

The lead author of the new study was Dr. Elizabeth Gershoff, a University of Texas researcher who has dedicated much of her career to opposing physical discipline.

Her latest overview was an updated version of a previous meta analysis she did (a meta analysis uses statistics to combine the results of many studies on the same topic, with the goal of getting more precise average results). The news stories explained that her overview was based on studies of over 150,000 children, spanning over 50 years, which sounds really impressive but really just amounts to running new statistical analyses on the same kind of research that several experts have been summarizing for the past 20 years. None of the other experts supported an absolute anti-spanking conclusion from their summaries of the same kind of research.<sup>2-7</sup>

One of the reasons why Dr. Gershoff and her research partner Dr. Andrew Gorgan-Kaylor (hereafter G&G) updated their meta analysis was to address a concern expressed about her previous research, namely that it failed to distinguish appropriate physical discipline from types of physical aggression that the law already criminalizes as abuse. It lumped measured, calm spankings in with the beatings given by enraged, out-of-control parents. So how useful could these findings be when it comes to evaluating the effectiveness of just the calm and collected spankings?

The answer is, not very. Indeed, that is one of the arguments that ARPA Canada

made in our policy report on corporal discipline that we sent to all MPs and Senators in 2014, and have defended on *CBC radio* and in the *Vancouver Sun* since. Those advocating that spanking be a criminal activity have never been able to respond to the contrary.

We explained over and over again that research that *did* take the time to isolate appropriate physical discipline did not find negative outcomes – in fact, physical discipline was shown to be as good as or better than all other forms of discipline.

### THREE FALLACIES

Another expert on the topic is Dr. Robert E. Larzelere, from Oklahoma State University (hereafter RL). He examined G&G's latest overview and quickly found it to be wanting. RL pointed out that only four of the 75 studies in the meta analysis examined whether appropriate spanking does more harm than good when nonphysical methods were ineffective. Those four studies proved that spanking was better than two of the three alternatives investigated, and was equally as effective as the third alternative (forced isolation).<sup>8-11</sup>

So how then did G&G come to the conclusion that spanking was always bad? Her conclusion came from the other 71 studies and included three fallacies. RL exposed the following three fallacies:

#### FALLACY #1 – CORRELATION

G&G's conclusions rely entirely on the studies' correlations – for example, children who were spanked more often tend to be more aggressive.

But even a high school student

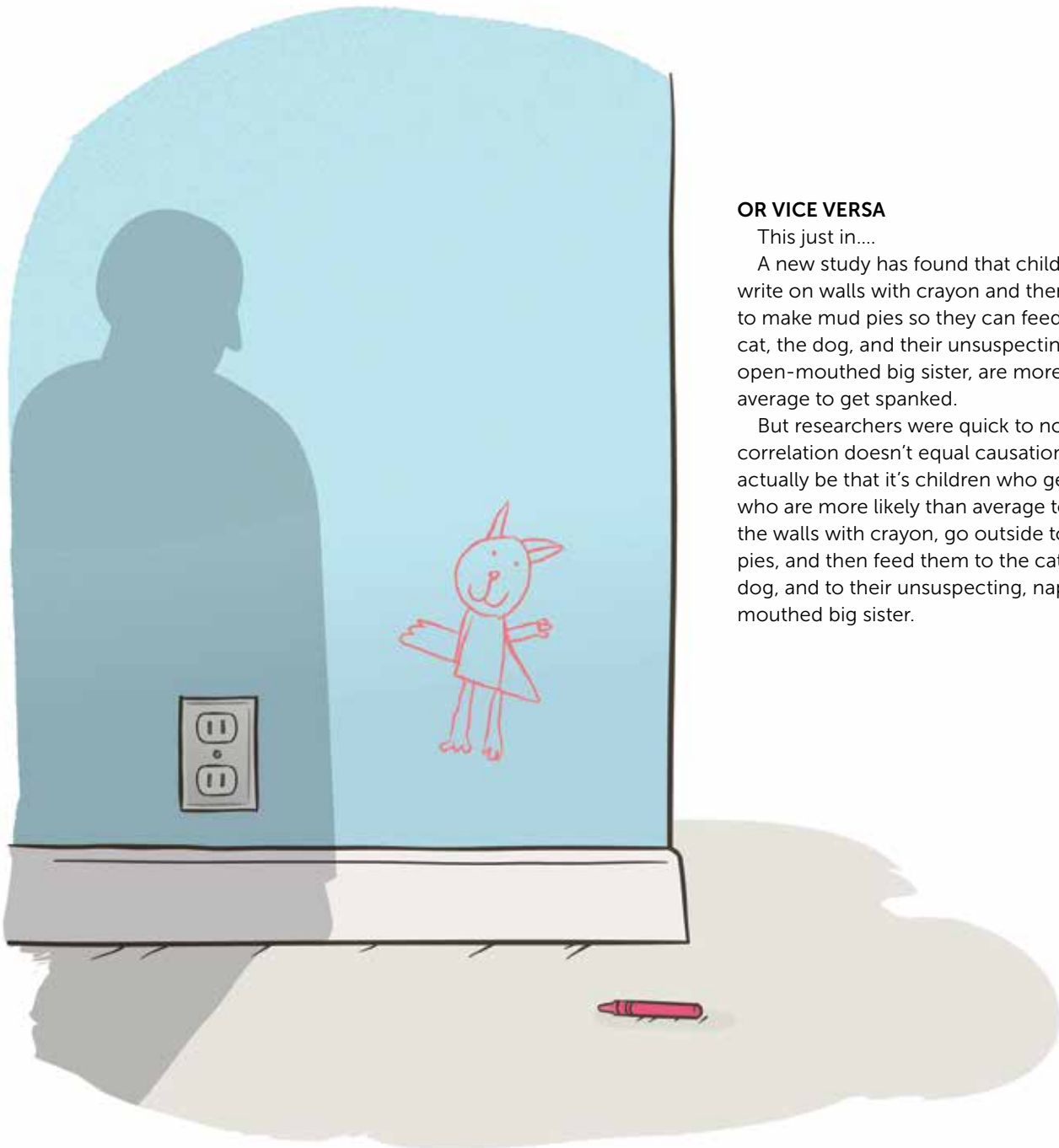
“*It is vital that we educate our neighbors, and especially our legislators, with this truth, before it's too late.*”

#### OR VICE VERSA

This just in....

A new study has found that children who write on walls with crayon and then go outside to make mud pies so they can feed them to the cat, the dog, and their unsuspecting, napping, open-mouthed big sister, are more likely than average to get spanked.

But researchers were quick to note that correlation doesn't equal causation. So...it may actually be that it's children who get spanked who are more likely than average to write on the walls with crayon, go outside to make mud pies, and then feed them to the cat, and to the dog, and to their unsuspecting, napping, open-mouthed big sister.



understands that correlation does not prove causation. In fact, it could well be that aggressive children were spanked more often because they were aggressive. As RL points out, this type of research would even make radiation treatment look harmful since patients receiving radiation treatment have more cancer than those who don't.<sup>12</sup>

#### FALLACY #2 – EXTRAPOLATION

G&G conclude that spanking should simply not be done. It is a similar conclusion that the Truth and Reconciliation Report came to in 2015, in their effort to address the fallout from the now infamous Residential Schools. That report led to the Liberal government promising to repeal Section 43 of the Criminal Code.

But do the studies actually bear this out? RL explains that only one of the studies in the entire meta analysis compared a group that was never spanked to one that was, and that study actually proved that spanking had a beneficial effect.<sup>13</sup> The authors wrongly extrapolated their conclusion based on the faulty correlational evidence. Even worse, two studies that did take the time to compare individuals who were never spanked with those who were, conveniently were left out of the meta analysis.<sup>14,15</sup>

The fact that overly frequent spanking correlates with worse child outcomes does not necessarily mean that no spanking will lead to the best outcomes. It could instead mean that the best parents use spanking only when needed – but not more often than that.

#### FALLACY #3 – LUMPING

Although G&G went out of their way to emphasize that this study proves that spanking is bad even when done carefully and in keeping with the law, the reality is that only 4 of the 75 studies relied specifically on “hitting a child on their buttocks...using an open hand.” The truth has not changed, no matter how it is hidden or confused – the research that properly examines the effect of appropriate spanking shows it to be as good as, or better than, all other

*The authors couldn't suggest any good disciplinary approaches – by their measure, they admitted “we don't know anything that works”.*

disciplinary tactics.

RL expressed his regrets about the poor research exemplified in G&G's overview, not just because it undermines appropriate physical discipline but also because it undermines efforts to discover other disciplinary tactics that may also be effective. Their reliance on correlational evidence is biased against every form of discipline, including time-outs, making the most effective disciplinary responses appear to be harmful. Does that mean that all discipline is harmful? The authors don't go that far in this overview, but they have already claimed that “we don't know anything that works” based on another study in which they investigated 10 other disciplinary methods using the same biased correlations.<sup>16</sup>

#### WE ALL NEED TO EXPOSE THE DANGEROUS RESEARCH

The sad reality is that truth and objectivity don't matter much when a publication comes to the conclusion that others want to see to bolster their worldview or political objectives. The mainstream media loves to publish stories like these, and the fact that they come from peer-reviewed journals means they accept the conclusions as fact.

To add to this, there are very, very few people who are willing to publicly defend something as politically

incorrect as spanking. Who wants to be lumped in with child abusers? This risk of being misquoted is too great. I'm aware of only two or three people/organizations in this country that are willing to even touch this issue.

The Overton Window concept explains that there is a range of ideas that the public will accept. That range shifts over time. An idea can move from something that is considered radical, to controversial, to acceptable, to popular, to public policy. Alternatively, it can go the other way too. Something like euthanasia was controversial five years ago but has quickly shifted to public policy today. Likewise, spanking can go from being lawful today to being criminalized ten years from now.

If we believe parents are the appropriate authorities to determine which form of loving discipline is most appropriate for their children (so long as it is not abusive), it is crucial that we seize the opportunity to speak up in defense of Section 43 while it is still considered acceptable. Not only is the research on our side, the Supreme Court of Canada already examined this issue in 2004 and upheld Section 43. They went so far as to conclude that the

decision not to criminalize such conduct is not grounded in devaluation of the child, but in a concern that to do so risks ruining lives and breaking up families — a burden that in large part would be borne by children and outweigh any benefit derived from applying the criminal process.”

#### CONCLUSION

This is an example of an issue where education is vital – we need to educate our legislators about the facts of the matter before they step in line with a government bill that would criminalize spanking. Once a bill is introduced in this majority government, it would be very difficult to do anything to stop it. And once a law is passed, most parents would understandably not want to risk having their children removed from their homes and will likely



abandon physical discipline. I believe it is possible, and even likely, that this government will indeed follow through with its promise. As we saw with euthanasia, the truth is irrelevant when this government is intent on pushing its ideological position through.

If you want to uphold parental authority in child rearing, please consider doing the following:

- 1) Pray for courage, grace, and winsomeness;
- 2) Read ARPA's policy report on the matter at [www.ARPACanada.ca](http://www.ARPACanada.ca) (click the publications menu)
- 3) Email your MP to ask for a meeting to discuss this matter – follow up with a phone call if they don't respond. Take a friend/family member along with you;
- 4) Use the meeting to present them with the solid research and be sure to communicate your motivation so they don't wrongly conclude we are seeking to hurt children in any way;
- 5) Email and/or phone the Minister of Justice to communicate your concerns in a loving way: Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, [mcu@justice.gc.ca](mailto:mcu@justice.gc.ca) and [jody.wilson-raybould@parl.gc.ca](mailto:jody.wilson-raybould@parl.gc.ca), 613-992-1416
- 6) Spread the word – share this article and encourage others to do the same.

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## MORE ON SPANKING

For more on the spanking debate – including how to defend this form of biblical discipline in the public sphere, and why spanking is very different from hitting – there are several helpful articles in the September 2015 issue. It can be downloaded at [www.ReformedPerspective.ca](http://www.ReformedPerspective.ca) as a pdf file.

# IN THE BEGINNING...

## Genesis 1-11 commentary takes Scripture seriously

reviewed by Wes Bredenhof

Outside of sermon preparation, it is not often that I read a commentary from front to back. If my reckoning is correct, this is only the third time and certainly the longest of the three – but it was well worth it! Dr. Jonathan Sarfati of Creation Ministries International has provided the Church a monumental resource on issues relating to the first 11 chapters of Holy Scripture.

Sarfati has produced a thorough commentary on Genesis 1-11 which takes Scripture seriously as the inerrant Word of God. The greatest strength of this volume is its commitment to the inspiration of the entire Bible and everything that necessarily must follow from that.

For example, one of the foundational issues that confronts Genesis commentators immediately is authorship. Commendably, Sarfati appeals to all of Scripture to prove the traditional view that Moses wrote Genesis, though quite possibly collating materials from earlier. Throughout the commentary, he also refutes the arguments of the “documentary hypothesis” – the old liberal idea that several authors were responsible for the Pentateuch, authors who lived much later than Moses.

Generally, Sarfati lands on the right side of the issues in the interpretation of these chapters. He defends creation in six ordinary days – a creation which happened thousands of years ago, not millions. He maintains that Adam was created on the sixth day out of literal dust from the ground, while Eve was created from Adam’s rib. There was a literal snake which led to a historical

fall of the first man and first woman. Later, Sarfati makes the case for a global flood in the days of Noah. He gets full marks on the big-ticket items.

### SOME DISAGREEMENTS

When we get down to some of the interpretive details, I disagree with Sarfati on some points.

For example in Genesis 6:2, we read that “the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose.” Sarfati vigorously argues the old view that “the sons of God” were angels. In other words, angels were married to human beings and had sexual relations with them. He argues that Jude 6-7 proves that angels engaged in sexual immorality. He argues that since angels can eat, surely they could also reproduce.

I am not convinced. In their essence, angels are spiritual beings, not physical beings and therefore cannot engage in sexual relations, much less reproduce by inter-breeding with humans. I find the “Sethite interpretation” to be correct – people descended from Seth (the line of the Messiah) married rebellious unbelievers. However, I would also grant that Sarfati’s view falls under the umbrella of what we call “the freedom of exegesis.”

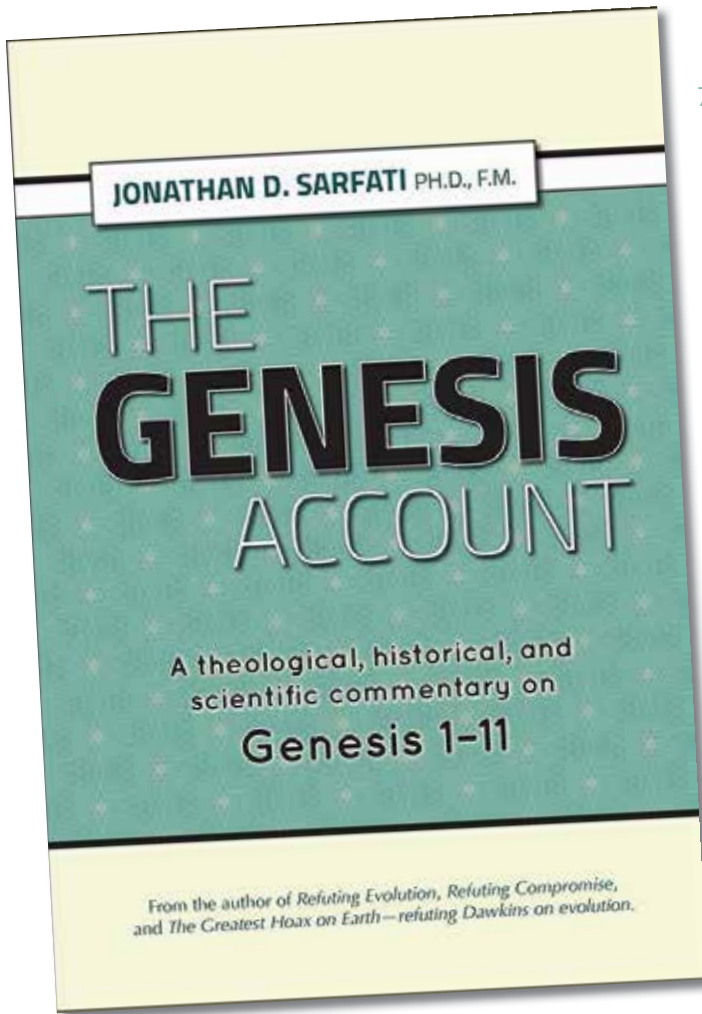
As a Reformed reader, regrettably, there are other areas where I cannot be as forgiving. While I have a lot of appreciation for the work Sarfati has done here, I would be remiss if I did not highlight several serious theological issues.

One issue that arises here and there is Sarfati’s dispensationalism. He often

quotes from (and refers to) fellow Messianic Jew Arnold Fruchtenbaum, another dispensationalist and figure on the “biblical prophecy” scene. This view emerges when, for example, Sarfati argues that Genesis does not speak directly about the church. For a Reformed believer, Genesis is all about the church! Sarfati makes a distinction between the Old Testament people of God (Israel) and the church, but the Belgic Confession says in article 27, “This [catholic] church has existed from the beginning of the world and will be to the end, for Christ is an eternal King who cannot be without subjects.” Not unrelated to this is the muted development of covenant theology in this commentary. For example, there is hardly a word about God’s covenant with Adam and Eve either before or after the fall into sin.

Another issue which caught my attention was Sarfati’s occasional references to followers of philosopher Gordon Clark, particularly Gary Crampton and John Robbins. Clark was part of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church when it first began in 1936. However, theological complaints lodged against him eventually led to his departure in the late 1940s. In Clark’s thinking, logic and God are to be identified with one another. God is pure logic, according to Clark and his followers. Clark famously translated John 1:1, “In the beginning was Logic, and Logic was with God, and Logic was God...” Critics of Clark (like John Murray and Cornelius VanTil) argued that Clark had confused creation with the Creator. God stands sovereign over logic; he is not subject to it nor

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both biblical and scientific. However, an incongruent feature is the informal style of writing often used – this can be distracting in a commentary that strives to have an academic calibre.

### CONCLUSION

*The Genesis Account* would especially serve well in the context of Christian education. Christian science and Bible teachers should have this volume on hand and refer to it often – they will find that their teaching on creation-related issues will be greatly enhanced!

Preachers would also appreciate

*Christian science and Bible teachers should have this volume on hand and refer to it often.*

it, especially when confronted with questions from parishioners. I regularly give my catechism students the opportunity to ask me questions. I am always surprised how many of the questions have to do with either the beginning (protology) or the end (eschatology). This book has already helped me to be better prepared to deal with the former.

Last of all, all Christian households could benefit from having a book of this nature on hand as a reference tool. When you hear or read the claims of the world, Sarfati will typically lead you back to the solid ground of biblical teaching on origins. Yes, as noted above, there are some caveats, but overall this commentary can be recommended. **RP**

This is where this commentary is most helpful. A few examples will illustrate.

Genesis 2:21 says that God created Eve from Adam's rib. Sarfati notes the fact that human ribs can actually regenerate. Hence, Adam would eventually have had a complete set of ribs again.

When discussing the Flood, the commentary point outs that catastrophic plate tectonics can explain the mechanism of this deluge.

How do we explain the formation of canyons that appear to be millions of years old? Sarfati describes how canyons have rapidly formed following catastrophic events like the eruption of Mt. St. Helens in 1980.

Off the coast of Iceland, an island (Surtsey) appeared due to volcanic activity in 1963. Scientists have since been dumbfounded at how quickly Surtsey developed a "mature landscape," including cliffs that would otherwise have been dated as far older.

In many instances, I was skeptical of Sarfati's claims. However, I did my own research on many of them and in every instance, so far as I could tell, his claims proved accurate.

This commentary aims to be scholarly in many respects. The author has used the original biblical languages – Greek and Hebrew are found throughout, but always transcribed. A lot of research is in the background,

equal to it. Unfortunately, Sarfati seems to follow Clark's reasoning in several places. It leads him to assert that maintaining the presence of any paradoxes, antinomies or tensions in Scripture (even apparent contradictions or humanly irreconcilable statements) is very dangerous. However, I would argue that this makes God, the author of Scripture, subject to our notions of what must be logical – far more dangerous! There are things taught in Scripture that are simply not capable of rational explanation – for example, the one God eternally existing in three persons. This is why the Belgic Confession says in article 9 that "this doctrine far surpasses all human understanding."

### HELPFUL INSIGHT

Enough about the theological and interpretive issues – this commentary also promises to shed scientific light about the first chapters of Genesis.



Even the world should agree...

# Christian activism is good for democracy

by Michael Wagner

**M**any among the Left, and even some on the right would like Christians to just stay out of politics. These are the sort who will chant "Separation of Church and State!" and "Don't force your morality on me!"

We could critique the inconsistency in their thinking – they don't have any problem forcing their morals on us. But in his book *The Democratic Virtues of the Christian Right*, Prof. Jon A. Shields rebuts this anti-Christian mob a different way. He notes that there are three main agreed upon measures by which political movements are generally evaluated. And by these measures Christians most definitely have a positive impact in the political realm. Or, in other words, Christian political involvement is good for democracy.

## THREE MEASURES

So what are these three measures?

### 1) DOES IT FOSTER PARTICIPATION?

As Justin Trudeau considers just how he is going to remake Canada's political process, one of the changes that has been suggested is that everyone be required to vote. While that is a very bad idea (Do we really want to force those who would otherwise be too lazy or uncaring to vote, to casually and carelessly cast a ballot?) it is based on the thought that the people should have their say.

So the first measure, as to whether a political movement is a positive force in a democracy, is whether the movement has been successful in mobilizing citizens into political participation. And especially citizens who had previously been disaffected or alienated from politics. Is the movement getting more

people out to the voting booths? Is it getting more people to visit or write their MP or MLA or city councilor?

### 2) DOES IT PROMOTE CIVILITY?

The second measure is whether the movement encourages its adherents to abide by "deliberative norms." Some political movements encourage screaming, shouting and even rioting. But if a movement encourages people to speak in a civil manner to their opponents, then we can agree that the movement is, in this respect, a positive force in our democracy.

### 3) DOES IT HELP THE COMMON GOOD?

The third measure is whether the goals of the movement enhance the common good.

Unfortunately, this third criterion is not very helpful because the common good is defined very differently by people holding to different worldviews. Christian political involvement does help the common good but this is not something those on the other side will be likely to concede. So it would be best then to focus on the first two criteria, which can be considered separately from the third.

## 1. PARTICIPATION

Shields' focus is on the American political scene, and there he notes that beginning in the 1970s and accelerating during the 1980s and 1990s, Christian organizations (notably the Christian Coalition) deliberately organized conservative Christians for political activity. This effort had a significant effect. Shields writes, "Today conservative evangelicals are not only more engaged in poli-

tics than they were in earlier decades, they are also more engaged than other groups that they once lagged behind."

In Canada, we've seen the growth of conservative Christian involvement too. In the late 1970s and early 1980s groups like Campaign Life Coalition and REAL Women of Canada were founded. More recently, ARPA Canada has helped get many more active.

Considering the first criterion, then, it is clear that conservative Christian organizations (or "Christian Right" organizations as Shields sometimes calls them) have effectively mobilized large numbers of previously uninvolved citizens into the political process. The Christian Right has, as Shields puts it, "helped revive participatory democracy."

This is a clear win for democracy.

## 2. DELIBERATIVE NORMS

The second criterion relates to how a political movement's members conduct themselves in public. Do they treat others with respect and try to reason with fellow citizens? Or do they scream at their opponents?

On this point Shields thinks conservative Christian organizations have done a good job encouraging their members to act and speak appropriately in public affairs. He writes that

the most universally taught deliberative norm in the Christian Right is the practice of civility. Christian Right leaders preach the virtues of civility because they want to persuade, not alienate, other citizens. Just as often, movement elites ground this norm in Christ's command to love one's neighbor.

## PRO-LIFE EXAMPLE

For his study, Shields focused particularly on the pro-life movement because it is one of the most important and long-standing causes of conservative Christian activism. He found that pro-life organizations frequently try to develop deliberative norms among their members that include “promoting public civility, practicing careful listening and dialogue... and embracing moral reasoning.”

Pro-life organizations will help to train their members how to argue for the rights of the unborn. For example, they explain fetal development and why the “pro-choice” position is inconsistent with human rights. In this way, pro-life activists become educated about abortion and how to explain the issue to fellow citizens. This often strengthens the confidence of the activists and their willingness to engage others on this important matter. It makes them more engaged as citizens.

## THE OTHER SIDE'S UNWILLINGNESS TO DEBATE

Interestingly, Shields discovered that pro-choice organizations tend to be unwilling to debate. Many pro-choice organizations with college or university campus groups have explicit policies of avoiding such debates. For example, the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) discourages its student activists from talking to pro-lifers supposedly because they won't be able to change the pro-lifers' opinions. The Pro-Choice Action Network refuses to debate because it claims that abortion is a basic human right and rights are not up for debate. Dialogue about abortion is therefore not possible.

Thus while pro-life groups are instructing their members how to discuss the abortion issue, some pro-choice groups are discouraging such discussions altogether. Shields points out that this situation has

left abortion rights advocates severely handicapped in the context of public debates. When pressed by pro-life activists, they have no ready explanation for why fetuses become persons at any point between conception and birth. This fact may explain why an undercurrent of self-doubt runs through some refusals to debate pro-life opponents.

Clearly, by the criterion of deliberative norms, the pro-life organizations are contributing much more to a functioning democratic society.

## ARPA CANADA TOO

On its website, ARPA Canada states that its mission is “to educate, equip, and encourage Reformed Christians to political action and to bring a biblical perspective to our civil authorities.” ARPA's activities clearly fall in line with the two criteria for political movements that enhance democracy. It encourages participation in the political process. It also encourages deliberative norms by educating Christian citizens on important issues and equipping them to make use of that knowledge in contacts with public officials and other citizens.

So a clear case can be made then, that ARPA Canada enhances democracy in Canada through its efforts, even aside from its specific impact on the issues it addresses.

Its impact on those issues is above and beyond its positive contribution towards democratic participation.

## CONCLUSION

Christians who engage in activism tend to become better democratic citizens. They usually increase their knowledge of public affairs and become better able to discuss those affairs with others. They are more aware of matters affecting society and more concerned about those matters. Time spent contacting public officials and discussing the issues with other citizens is time spent trying to make the country a better place. Democratic virtues are manifested in this way, even when government policies are not changed for the better.

If the world appreciates everyone's respectful participation in the democratic process, then they should need to acknowledge that Christian participation is good for democracy.

RP



# Help on teaching our kids to fight online temptation

This is a great, informative, and very, very important book on how to help our kids resist pornography.

Our children live in a "pornified" culture and it seems that no matter how protective we parents might be, it's only a matter of time before our children run across something on the Internet that we wish they'd never seen.

So how can we protect them? How can we do all we can to push that eventual exposure to as far out as we can? And how can we prepare them for what they need to do when it does happen? To answer those questions and more I can't think of a better resource to turn to than *Parenting the Internet Generation*.

And not only is it fantastic, it's free!

## PARENTING IS FOUNDATIONAL

What makes *Parenting* so much better than other books on this topic is that it digs much deeper. This isn't simply a pornography problem; what it really comes down to is Christian parenting. If we want our kids to resist temptation, and come to us when they do mess up, then we need to know how to discipline them rightly, as God instructs us.

The best way to show just how good this book really is might be to share some excerpts. So I'll begin with one of Gilkerson's biblical-based thoughts on discipling rightly.

Paul reminds fathers, "Do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged" (Colossians

3:21, NIV), and again in another letter, "Do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4, NIV). Training and instruction happens as parents create an environment of authority, structure, correction, and consequences, but Paul knows how easily parents can become frustrated and resentful in the process of parenting. This, in turn, leads us to embitter and exasperate our children by breaking their spirits.

One of the most common ways parents do this is by using shame-based strategies to get their kids to behave. What exactly is "shame-based" parenting? It is a family dynamic where shame—the looming threat or presence of disapproval and disfavor—is the primary motivator used for good behavior. This can show up in a thousand ways.

- Expecting perfection by overestimating what their sinful hearts can do
- Failing to really listen to them as we correct them
- Speaking bitter or harsh words ("What is wrong with you?" "When will you ever...?" "You always..." "You never..." "You idiot")
- Showing little compassion
- Giving the cold shoulder or being dismissive
- Pushing kids to excel in peripheral tasks

- Showing favoritism to other siblings

It is a rigid environment that leaves children discouraged and exasperated. This kind of environment often trains children to be obsessive over "doing the right things" in order to be approved—or else totally rebellious. This kind of environment has unwittingly made so many children ripe for sexually sinful habits.

See where Gilkerson is going here? How we parent can either help our children resist temptation... *or push them towards it*. Most of us have indulged in this shame-based parenting at one point or another, and if we are going to help our kids, then we need to stop. We need to repent. The alternative is too horrible to consider. As Douglas Wilson puts it (in a quotation Gilkerson includes):

Gracious fathers lead their sons through the minefield of sin. Indulgent fathers watch their sons wander off into the minefield. Legal fathers chase them there.

I read this and found it daunting. It seemed simply too much for me, or me and my wife, to pull off. We know we're going to mess up, fall short, and just generally fail our kids.

But it's just that understanding that's key. We are going to sin, but our gracious God is ready to forgive a repentant sinner. When we fall on God's grace then even our failures



## PARENTING THE INTERNET GENERATION

BY LUKE GILKERSON

144 PAGES / 2016

[CovenantEyes.com/parenting-the-internet-generation](http://CovenantEyes.com/parenting-the-internet-generation)

can be instructive to our children, showing them the graciousness of God *that they can depend on*. So we don't need to be perfect. But, our parenting goals should be clear:

Make this your goal every day:  
In each phase of the day when I interact with my children, I will either be an example to them in my obedience to and love for God, or I will be an example in my repentance.

### CONTENTS

In nine chapters Gilkerson lays out:

1. How porn harms our children (Introduction and Chapter 1)
2. What parents need to teach our children and model to them (Chapters 2-6, 8)
3. Tools parents can make use of (Chapter 7 and the Appendices)
4. What the gospel is, and how it applies to the matters of parenting and pornography (Chapter 9)

Each chapter ends with a half dozen or so reflection questions and some of these are so very pointed they may draw blood. A few examples:

- If our sin is small, then our Savior must be small. But, if our sin is outright rebellion, then our Savior must be a true rescuer." In what ways have you made Jesus small in how you've parented?
- If you have a tween or teen, have you ever directly asked him/her, "Have you ever seen pornography?" What would you say if he/she said, "yes"? Are you ready for that conversation?
- At some point, it will happen — maybe not in your home, but

maybe at school, on the bus, or at a friend's house.

Does your child know what to do if he/she ever sees porn?

Each chapter also includes a link to a short (4 minutes or less) video summarizing what the chapter just went over.

These questions and video are great study aids, probably best suited for a couple to go through together, but they would work great for a weekly parents' study group too. Whether you're going through it alone, or with a group each chapter has a lot to chew on so the best pace is probably just one chapter per week. The material is simply too thought-provoking to run through any quicker.

### CONCLUSION

This isn't a perfect book - I could list some minor quibbles (I think the distinction Gilkerson makes between guilt and shame is a bit confusing) — but I've not run across any better. It is the best guide available on a subject parents would love to have help with.

I should mention that the author works for Covenant Eyes (CE), which sells accountability software — this is software parents can use to monitor

all the websites their children visit. This isn't spying - the CE logo pops up every time the computer loads up, so children will know they are being monitored. This is, instead, a parent coming alongside their child, helping them resist temptation, and being aware of when they don't. The book is made available for free on their website (you do have to give your name and email address to get the e-book but they won't spam you). While companies generally give away books for promotional reasons, and I'm sure that CE will gain a few clients because of this book, CE's motivations for giving away this book are of the very best kind. It's clear they want to help parents.

And with this excellent resource, they most certainly are. You can get it at [CovenantEyes.com/parenting-the-internet-generation](http://CovenantEyes.com/parenting-the-internet-generation)



## Riddle for Punsters #234



Why did the vulture eat road-kill?

He wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ion the family tradition.

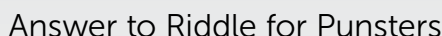
## "Summer Holidays -ing Words"

Unscramble the following words related to summer holidays and ending with "ing" e.g. PAGMINC = CAMPING.

ETRAW GISINK \_\_\_\_\_  
 DEANRIG \_\_\_\_\_  
 PIMCNAG \_\_\_\_\_  
 GIKNIH \_\_\_\_\_  
 GHIFINS \_\_\_\_\_  
 THUNGNABIS \_\_\_\_\_  
 GHAN NIGGLID \_\_\_\_\_

Or, If it is BLACK's Move, **BLACK to Mate in 3**

## Solution to Chess Puzzle #233



#233 - "Should Wendy tweet a daily report?"

The VanderSmith family were going on a holiday. Wendy was asked to feed their many birds. Mr. Vandersmith was rather cagey when he convinced her to do so. He said that it would not be a big burdon and that if a problem situation came up she could easily wing it.

#233 – “Music Genres for both Genders?”

Cynthia has 88 music selections stored on her tablet. Ten are choir music selections, 24 are classical symphonies, 20 are movie theme tracks, 26 are easy listening pieces and 8 are country music songs.

- If all selections of a given category (e.g., classical) are kept together in a group, in how many different orders can the 88 selections be ordered on the tablet?
- If Cynthia's brother Steve borrows the tablet, what is the probability that a selection chosen at random is a choir music piece?
- If Steve plays three selections chosen randomly, what is the probability that he hears a movie theme followed by a classical symphony followed by a country music song?

## ANSWERS

a) Within the classical category, the 24 songs can be in  $24 \times 23 \times 22 \dots \times 2 \times 1 =$  which is written as  $24!$  (on a scientific calculator). Similarly for the others. The songs of a category are kept grouped together and the **5 groups themselves can be put in 5 choices x 4 choices x 3 choices x 2 choices x 1 choice =  $5! = 120$  orders.**

[illegible]

- c) Probability (movie, classical, country) =  $(20/88)(24/88)(8/88) = (5/22)(6/22)(1/11) = 30/5324$  or about 0.56% (so less than 1% probability)

### WHITE TO MATE IN 4

### Descriptive Notation

- Descriptive Notation**
- |    |           |      |
|----|-----------|------|
| 1. | KN-B6 ch  | K-R1 |
| 2. | NxR ch    | K-N1 |
| 3. | KN-B6 ch  | K-R1 |
| 4. | R-B8 mate |      |

### Algebraic Notation

1. Ne4-f6 + Kg8-h8
2. Nf6xe8 + Kh8-g8
3. Ne8-f6 + Kg8-h8
4. Rc2-c8 ++

**BLACK TO MATE IN 3**

## Descriptive Notation

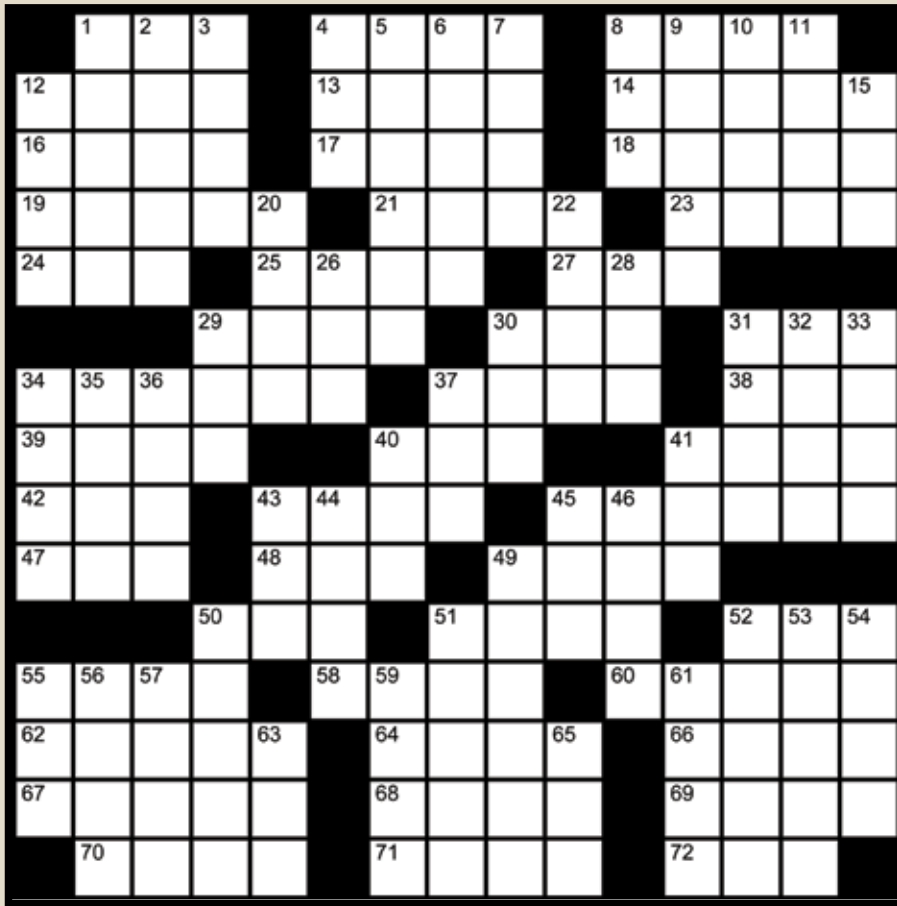
- Descriptive Notation
- |    |       |           |
|----|-------|-----------|
| 1. | ----- | Q-B8 ch   |
| 2. | K-Q2  | Q-K7 ch   |
| 3. | K-B1  | Q-K8 mate |
- or
- |    |      |           |
|----|------|-----------|
| 3. | K-B3 | Q-Q6 mate |
|----|------|-----------|

## Algebraic Notation

- Keyhole Notation
- |    |        |           |
|----|--------|-----------|
| 1. | -----  | Qh3-f1 +  |
| 2. | Kc1-d2 | Qf1-e2 +  |
| 3. | Kd2-c1 | Qe2-e1 ++ |
- or
- |    |        |           |
|----|--------|-----------|
| 3. | Kd2-c3 | Qe2-d3 ++ |
|----|--------|-----------|

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

BY JEFF DYKSTRA



SERIES 2-11

## PUZZLE CLUES

### ACROSS

1. On a phone, it makes you partially *happy*.
4. Take a \_\_\_\_\_ at (give a good try)
8. Present facts with clear bias in an argument
12. Specific type of root vegetable
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Moreno (guest on *The Muppets*)
14. "they picked up stones to \_\_\_\_\_" (John 8)
16. Colored part of the eye (green if part *Irish*)
17. Adjective describing cake or tea
18. Western Canadian trucking company
19. The meeting of chocolate milk and coffee
21. Largest city of Ukraine
23. Sharp (like pain in mixed-up *knee*?)
24. Suffix showing an inhabitant of Nazareth
25. "like the smoke of a \_\_\_\_\_" (Ex. 19)

27. Number of next possible world war

29. \_\_\_\_\_ E. Coyote (Roadrunner's nemesis)
30. "Tit for \_\_\_\_\_" (similar to "an eye for an eye")
31. Explosive discovery of 1863
34. Got smaller (in more than just *rank*?)
37. "the Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ me to go with..." (Acts 11)
38. Higher than, archaically put
39. \_\_\_\_\_ d'Eiffel (landmark de Paris?)
40. To blast with energy (in comics)
41. Black-and-white cookie brand
42. Printing measure about half width of an em
43. \_\_\_\_\_ Trotsky – Russian revolutionary
45. Unusually bright person (not the candy)
47. (Favorite) animal you own
48. Former name of Tokyo
49. Edith \_\_\_\_\_ - famous

French singer

50. Oil \_\_\_\_\_ (synonym for derrick)
51. "nations have \_\_\_\_\_ into the pit" (Ps. 9)
52. Groove worn into road by vehicles
55. (Unattractive?) Jamaican hybrid fruit
58. Title of Muslim (usually Arab) ruler
60. Wipe clean pencilled notes or digital data
62. The attitude of "The Three Billy Goats..."
64. Mammal's waste product used in fertilizer
66. Offer by parents: "The meal's \_\_\_\_\_!"
67. Favorite greeting in *Winnie the Pooh*
68. \_\_\_\_\_ off (started a golf game)
69. What's found in a pod
70. "death will \_\_\_\_\_ from them" (Rev. 9)
71. "he looks to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth" (Job 28)
72. One type of this is called the moray.

### LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



### SERIES 2-10

#### DOWN

1. High priest and brother of Moses
2. "I give the \_\_\_\_\_ of the field." (Gen. 23)
3. Song title in movie *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Lanka (formerly Ceylon)
5. Name of Mr. Dressup's clothes trunk
6. Sat down to home-cooked meal (two words)
7. Asked (to do something), archaically
8. Home sweet home (for a pig)
9. Color of military dress
10. Sea eagle
11. "He... \_\_\_\_\_ him, saying, 'Get up'" (Acts 12)
12. "a \_\_\_\_\_ to be born, and a" (Eccl. 3)
15. Boil, swelling, or other growth on the skin
20. Of similar character (to)
22. Glass container (of something *vile*?)
26. Sort; type (with insulting connotations)
28. "\_\_\_\_\_ be fun!"
29. "Now \_\_\_\_\_ arose in heaven," (Rev. 12)
30. "stand on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the hill" (Ex. 17)
31. Unit of *torrential* atmospheric pressure
32. Female hair removal product
33. Where Helen moved to from Greece
34. "if my \_\_\_\_\_ has turned aside from" (Job 31)
35. Sharpen (a knife, or one's skills)
36. Iron oxide (like partial corrosion of *trust*?)
37. Make hide into leather
40. Place where you may *not* feed the residents
41. Goofy person (not totally a *loafer* though?)
43. What to wear while eating poi at a luau?
44. "teeth are set on \_\_\_\_\_" (Ez. 18)
45. "All wrongdoing is \_\_\_\_\_" (1 John 5)
46. "Let us \_\_\_\_\_ man in our image" (Gen. 1)
49. Description of veggies reduced to baby food
50. Long-range firearm
51. Mythological temptress of Ulysses' crew
52. Wife of a raja (variant spelling)
53. Customary; typical
54. \_\_\_\_\_ of the *D'Urbervilles* (novel title)
55. Noise of disgust
56. \_\_\_\_\_ Spee – WWII German battleship
57. Pause in conversation or weather
59. "led astray to \_\_\_\_\_ idols" (1 Cor. 12)
61. "let them down by a \_\_\_\_\_" (Josh. 2)
63. "A \_\_\_\_\_ and enemy! ...Haman!" (Es. 7)
65. They often take up full pages in magazines.



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**Jonathan Brouwer**  
CONSULTANT  
Investors Group Financial Services Inc.

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