

American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org

Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts

December 2008

Dear children of God

Keep yourself unspotted
from the filth of this age
By Bill Johnson



As I think look back over the years, let me share a few words of loving exhortation to you as we complete another year.

How did I ever get myself into heading a ministry with such a name as *American Decency Association*?

The short answer is God called me. I had been a public school teacher for 18 years and had grown increasingly burdened over the changing tide of television programming. I believed in the mid-80s that families were increasingly embattled - behaviors, attitudes, language of children becoming less innocent.

I believed that God tapped me on the shoulder to work to clean up television and to warn His people to

guard their hearts from things that were displeasing to His Holy Name.

I left teaching in June 1988 and have been at this humble - but glorious - task for over 20 years. It is incredible to know His faithful enablement and provision over these many years.

As a younger man in my thirties and forties, I was so burdened not only for my children, but for all children. I didn't want children to be lured into promiscuity, pre-marital sex, sexual sin.

I didn't want children to become ensnared by the lies of Satan - being trapped into a life of self-centered hedonism - always looking out for what fulfills their ego, their own wants - focused only on self.

As I found after living briefly in such a way as a youth, there is such a better way!

We weren't designed to be self-centered "takers". Have you ever taken time to contrast the lives of those who give instead of take?

I have and continue to do so. Life and love flows out of them bringing hope, encouragement, peace and refreshment to those whom their lives touch.

What a contrast to those who live only for themselves. It's not only sad for their loved ones, but sad for themselves. Takers aren't contented people - whether young or old. In fact, the older they become the worse things become for them and others.

It is easy to be one of these caught up in self. As a self-centered agnostic in my early twenties, when presented with the Gospel message, I scoffed like so many others. I had no need for a Savior - or so I thought.

But some were praying for me and within a short time when again presented with the Gospel, I came to see my need for Christ's righteousness.

Christmas! May Christ bring our needy, self-centered loved ones to Him in this month of love and joy. Amen!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill".

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Please. Christian brother and sister: Keep yourself unspotted from the world



Christ's love is so great for us! As believers, may we not sully His name by placing wicked things before our eyes. [Psalm 101:3a]

The following analysis of television in 2008 comes from our ministry friends at Parent Television Council.

Today's prime-time television programming is not merely indifferent to the institution of marriage and the stabilizing role it plays in our society, it seems to be actively seeking to undermine marriage by consistently painting it in a negative light. Nowhere is this more readily apparent than in the treatment of sex on television. Sex in the context of marriage... is depicted as burdensome rather than as an expression of love and commitment. By contrast, extra-marital or adulterous sexual relationships are depicted with greater frequency and over-

whelmingly, as a positive experience. Across the broadcast networks, verbal references to non-marital sex outnumbered references to sex in the context of marriage by nearly 3 to 1; and scenes depicting or implying sex between non-married partners outnumbered scenes depicting or implying sex between married partners by a ratio of nearly 4 to 1.

Even more troubling than the marginalization of marriage and glorification of non-marital sex on television is TV's recent obsession with outré sexual expression. Today more than ever teens are exposed to a host of once-taboo sexual behaviors... Behaviors that were once seen as fringe, immoral, or socially destructive have been given the imprimatur of acceptability by the television industry — and children are absorbing those messages and in many cases, imitating that behavior. PTC analysts examined all scripted prime-time entertainment programs on the major broadcast television networks (ABC, CBS, CW, Fox, and NBC) during four weeks at the

beginning of the 2007-2008 television season (Sept. 23-Oct. 22, 2007) for a total of 207.5 programming hours, recording all manner of sexual content including not only on-screen depictions of obviously sexual behavior..., but implied sex, discussions of sex and sexuality, innuendo, visual references to strippers, pornography, and the like.

*Across the broadcasting networks, references to adultery outnumbered references to marital sex 2 : 1 .

*Although the networks shied away from talking about sex in the context of marriage, they did not shy away from discussions of [a variety of fetishes and perversions] - there were 74 such references during the study period.

*The Family Hour - the time slot with the largest audience of young viewers .. contained the highest frequencies of references to non-married sex as opposed to references to sex in marriage.

[Taken from: <http://www.parentstv.org/PTC/publications/reports/sexontv/main.asp>]

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