

American Decency Association

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

Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts

February 2013

Ready for the Cyber World

By Tedd Tripp
From *Tabletalk*



When are kids ready for smart-phones or other devices that give access to the cyber world?

I often speak with parents whose children are addicted to video games or other appetites awakened on the Internet. They are dismayed, and their alarm is appropriate. The Internet provides access to questionable friendships, interests, ideas, and delights that may be perverse and degrading. Children enter a cyber world that parents know little about and cannot easily monitor. Parents are shocked by their son's computer history. They catch a glimpse of their daughter's Facebook page and see her withdrawing into a social network that does not include family.

Their son plays video games for hours, and is angry and hostile when he is called back into the real world.

So, when are they ready? Maybe a better question is, how do I get them ready for the cyber world they have inherited? I pursue meaningful relationships with them. I prepare them through careful, thoughtful instruction. I wow them with God's character and attributes. I speak about being creatures made in His image to be dazzled by His glory. I excite them with humanity's grand and noble calling to make the world a place of beauty and justice so that people may flourish. I open up the problem of the fall and its effects on them and all humanity. I help them see the sneaky ways of sin and our profound need for grace and deliverance. I extol the virtues of Jesus as the Savior, who abandoned glory to live in our world, and who, though sinless, died to secure our reconciliation to a holy God. I seek to persuade them of the glad delights of walking in God's ways. I mentor them on battle

strategies for the sins that war against them.

Two cautions: First, this is only a suggestive outline of instruction needed to navigate the dangerous waters of the youth culture. Second, this is not a monologue they hear only before opening their new iPhones; it's a long-term training process.

Back to the question: When are they ready? When they reflect their embrace of the things you have taught, then they are ready to navigate these dangerous waters.

Parents mistake their kids' intuitive ability to use electronics with the maturity needed for wise use. My four-year-old grandson learned to ride his two-wheeler, but his dad still won't let him ride his bike to Grandma's. Why not? He can operate the bike, but his dad knows there are dangers on the road that his son is not ready for. One day he will be. Dad is getting him ready. One day, your kids will be ready for unsupervised forays into the cyber world. Get them ready.

American Decency Association

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

Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts

February 2013

Ready for the Cyber World

By Tedd Tripp
From *Tabletalk*



When are kids ready for smart-phones or other devices that give access to the cyber world?

I often speak with parents whose children are addicted to video games or other appetites awakened on the Internet. They are dismayed, and their alarm is appropriate. The Internet provides access to questionable friendships, interests, ideas, and delights that may be perverse and degrading. Children enter a cyber world that parents know little about and cannot easily monitor. Parents are shocked by their son's computer history. They catch a glimpse of their daughter's Facebook page and see her withdrawing into a social network that does not include family.

Their son plays video games for hours, and is angry and hostile when he is called back into the real world.

So, when are they ready? Maybe a better question is, how do I get them ready for the cyber world they have inherited? I pursue meaningful relationships with them. I prepare them through careful, thoughtful instruction. I wow them with God's character and attributes. I speak about being creatures made in His image to be dazzled by His glory. I excite them with humanity's grand and noble calling to make the world a place of beauty and justice so that people may flourish. I open up the problem of the fall and its effects on them and all humanity. I help them see the sneaky ways of sin and our profound need for grace and deliverance. I extol the virtues of Jesus as the Savior, who abandoned glory to live in our world, and who, though sinless, died to secure our reconciliation to a holy God. I seek to persuade them of the glad delights of walking in God's ways. I mentor them on battle

strategies for the sins that war against them.

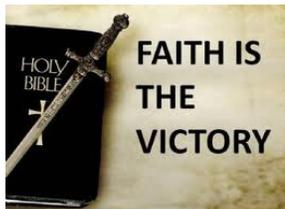
Two cautions: First, this is only a suggestive outline of instruction needed to navigate the dangerous waters of the youth culture. Second, this is not a monologue they hear only before opening their new iPhones; it's a long-term training process.

Back to the question: When are they ready? When they reflect their embrace of the things you have taught, then they are ready to navigate these dangerous waters.

Parents mistake their kids' intuitive ability to use electronics with the maturity needed for wise use. My four-year-old grandson learned to ride his two-wheeler, but his dad still won't let him ride his bike to Grandma's. Why not? He can operate the bike, but his dad knows there are dangers on the road that his son is not ready for. One day he will be. Dad is getting him ready. One day, your kids will be ready for unsupervised forays into the cyber world. Get them ready.

Step Back and Look at Reality

by Bill Johnson



My dad loved America. He was like many others of his generation (the greatest generation). He loved small town parades - Memorial Day and Fourth of July with the veterans carrying the American flag and the high school band playing God Bless America and the Star Spangled Banner. Dad was a World War II veteran having served on the ground in Germany.

I lost Dad in March 2008. However, I was able to help fulfill a desire of his in the summer of 2004. We traveled together to Washington, DC to the World War II Memorial.

We took a trolley tour on a little red trolley with other family members. The drop off point for the World War II Memorial was some 250 yards away. After about 100 yards, Dad said "It

looks like I'm not going to be able to make it." He had a bum leg that would flare up after so much walking and his leg had had enough.

To make a long story short, my son-in-law found a Park Ranger who initially responded negatively to a request to drive his little cart down to pick him up. Then 15 minutes later he came back and said "Look. The park services frown on this but I have a World War II veteran father, too. I can't say no."

I didn't always get it regarding our country. Much could be written about that, but I'll leave that for another time.

'Once I was blind but now I see' certainly applies to my living in darkness spiritually but it also applies to once upon a time years ago I took peace, freedom, opportunity, religious tolerance so much for granted!

I have known liberalism. I have been anti-war - even marching on Washington, DC during the late 1960s.

What I see happening in the Middle East, Europe, and in America concerns me very

deeply.

For those of us who are in Christ, this world is not our home. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world.

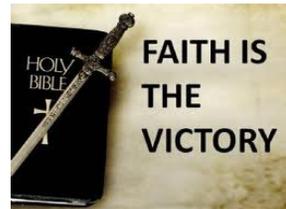
You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. One you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. I Peter 1:9-10

Yet, we aren't so heavenly minded that we are no earthly good - we are to be salt and light in a rotting and darkened culture.

May God help us to have the mind of Christ - not a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Step Back and Look at Reality

by Bill Johnson



My dad loved America. He was like many others of his generation (the greatest generation). He loved small town parades - Memorial Day and Fourth of July with the veterans carrying the American flag and the high school band playing God Bless America and the Star Spangled Banner. Dad was a World War II veteran having served on the ground in Germany.

I lost Dad in March 2008. However, I was able to help fulfill a desire of his in the summer of 2004. We traveled together to Washington, DC to the World War II Memorial.

We took a trolley tour on a little red trolley with other family members. The drop off point for the World War II Memorial was some 250 yards away. After about 100 yards, Dad said "It

looks like I'm not going to be able to make it." He had a bum leg that would flare up after so much walking and his leg had had enough.

To make a long story short, my son-in-law found a Park Ranger who initially responded negatively to a request to drive his little cart down to pick him up. Then 15 minutes later he came back and said "Look. The park services frown on this but I have a World War II veteran father, too. I can't say no."

I didn't always get it regarding our country. Much could be written about that, but I'll leave that for another time.

'Once I was blind but now I see' certainly applies to my living in darkness spiritually but it also applies to once upon a time years ago I took peace, freedom, opportunity, religious tolerance so much for granted!

I have known liberalism. I have been anti-war - even marching on Washington, DC during the late 1960s.

What I see happening in the Middle East, Europe, and in America concerns me very

deeply.

For those of us who are in Christ, this world is not our home. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world.

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. One you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. I Peter 1:9-10

Yet, we aren't so heavenly minded that we are no earthly good - we are to be salt and light in a rotting and darkened culture.

May God help us to have the mind of Christ - not a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.