

Parent, Kids, and Techtation

I. ***Lust doesn't need technology to flourish.***

- Job tells us that he had to make a promise with his eyes not to lust after women. Job is a book written about a family that predates Abraham! In fact, Job is thought to be the oldest book in the Bible. The point is, lust exists in the heart of *every* human, and sexual lust in particular needs only two things – a mind and an object. Please do not think your children are safe from the temptation we're discussing simply because they don't have access to a technological device. All they need is their own mind and something to lust after.

II. ***Technology is to sexual sin what airplanes are to world travel.***

- *They don't make it possible, they make it easier.* While driving down the road traveling about 45 miles an hour, I've often marveled at the amazing speeds we travel compared to the transportation of the past. Horse and buggy have nothing on today's worst cars. As we've already seen, lust doesn't need technology, but technology sure makes it easier to access it. When before, a young man would have to sneak a copy of a dirty magazine, today he can anonymously view whatever forms of vile filth he wants from the comforts of his own bedroom.

III. ***Too many parents are ignorant to what I like to call "Techtation." Techtation is the unique temptation technology affords.***

- Did you know that the most grotesque scenes of human sexuality are available to anyone with an internet connection? Did you know your child can send and receive texts you will never know about? Did you know someone could send your child a nude picture of themselves, and you'd never be billed for it? Did you know that almost all of that can happen in your children's most innocuous game apps, and that every single thing I just mentioned can be accessed through the most basic social media like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter?

IV. ***Too many parents trust their children with technology.***

- We don't trust toddlers around ovens, scissors, and pools because of the inherent risk each poses. In addition, the proportionate immaturity of the child to the enhanced danger of the object increases our prohibitions. Yet we hand pre-pubescent, hormone-ridden, spiritually-immature, lustful young people a device capable of beaming wicked images into their brains, and we somehow justify this decision because our culture condemns us for not trusting our kids!
- Listen. I know why we want to trust our children so badly. It seems like a need we have to want to extend them more privileges than they've earned. And in many cases, that's okay. It offers them opportunities to succeed. And even when they fail, most of the time it's happens in a safe environment where we parents can help them learn from the defeat.
- But techtation doesn't work that way for two of the reasons we've already seen. 1. We never have an accurate picture of the depths of our children's lust. I can't tell you how many parents have told me categorically that their child has never seen pornography, but later in counseling the child admits to seeing things that would make us nauseous.

V. *When sin is finally found out, parents often cut the wrong cords.*

- I've seen plenty of parents remove the child's devices and cut all digital communication with the outside world. But the cord of personal lust is too often left untouched.

VI. *How to Address the Problem*

- ***Understand Lust.*** Understand the biblical root of lust, the consequences of lust, and the cure for lust. Proverbs 6:29-35 gives us a view of the destruction inherent in sexual perversion that should bring tears to our eyes. We parents must be educated and informed about the biblical issues and answers.
- ***Come to grips with the fact that when you hand your child a mobile device, you're not merely making it easier to contact them.*** Understand the inherent dangers of the device. There are programs that are invaluable in the battles against techtation.
- ***Research pornography!*** Read articles about the effects it has on the brain. Study the physiological cues of a porn addict. Research how kids today are sexting. Become an expert on protecting and preparing your kids to interact with lust and techtation. Christians need to resharpen our definition of pornography. Sex was created by God for married couples. When we allow our kids to watch movies with immodest actors doing sensual things, we're introducing our kids to their first pornography.
- ***Stop trusting babies around the oven!*** Trust is a facet of love, but trust is never unwise in its trusting. We need to teach our children about the device in their hands, teach them about lust. Let them mature, and then bless them with trust equal to their worthiness.
- ***Children need accountability.*** They need to be taught to live a Christ-honoring life in the middle of this corrupt world. The device isn't the real issue; the heart is. It may be necessary to cut the cordless device, but if your child is caught in sin, don't ignore the deeper, more significant issue. Get counseling. Root out the lust and help the child desire what is right and good.
- ***Friend your kids on social media.*** You need to hang out where your kids hang out. Know who they know. Read what they read. Listen to what they listen to. Every single time I've encountered a young person feeding the flesh on social media, I've found a young person whose parents don't know what Snap Chat or Instagram is. "*I don't use Facebook.*" is not a legitimate excuse that somehow gets you - the parent - off the hook! Is your child on Facebook? Then that's reason enough for you to have an account . . . or at least to share a login with your child.
- ***"Friend" your child in real-life too.*** Make these steps in their sanctification a you-and-them-together experience, not a you-against-them confrontation. Love them. Disciple them. Be on their side for God's glory. Too often these conversations aren't had until someone's already in trouble.