

Parenting Trends 2021, Part 2

V. We can expect increased governmental oversight in our daily lives.

- **Our current administration advocates the murder of unborn children.**
 - Evermind Ministries, Truth.Love.Parent., and The Celebration of God are unashamedly pro-life. We support anti-abortion legislation and causes as much as we can. We march for life. We vote for life. And we stand with the Scriptures on this point. God hates murder. Murder is never okay. It's never excusable.
 - They are going to do everything they can to indoctrinate our children that abortion is not only an option, it's also a good idea that's worth celebrating.
 - If your children attend a government school, you can know that they will be exposed to this wicked thinking early and often.
- **Our current administration advocates for wicked views on sexuality.**
 - Even once-respected children's cartoons have capitulated to the vocal minority and are pushing transgenderism and homosexuality. And — I promise you — it won't be long before they're promoting sex outside of marriage to underage kids.
 - How are you going to prepare your kids for this godless propaganda? How are you going to equip them to respond to the temptations all around them.
 - Just remember Deuteronomy 6:5-9 and Ephesians 6:4.
- **Our current administration wants to dismantle the biblical understanding of family.**
 - Children are taken off of life support against the parents wishes, fathers have no say if the mother wants to abort the baby, the government is setting up hotlines where children can be given sexual education without their parent's consent, parents aren't being allowed access to their children's classrooms (in-person or virtual), parents are being told they have no right to deny their child's desire for a sex change or tell their children that homosexuality is a sin, churches and Christian schools are being threatened with closures and the loss of tax-exempt status, ivy league professors are preaching that homeschooling is dangerous to kids, activists are demanding that parents not be allowed to dictate their child's gender until the child — themselves — decides what it is, and the list goes on and on.
 - This attempt to dismantle the family attacks only one philosophy . . . that which aligns with biblical teaching.
- **Our current administration wants to silence biblical voices.**
 - There will come a time in first-world countries — sooner than we think — when Christian parents will be threatened with losing their children unless the parents stop parenting according to the Bible. Will we be ready for it?
 - We need to choose this day whom we will serve because we can't wait to make the decision until we're in the middle of the crisis.
 - Parents are going to experience increased governmental oversight in their daily lives. How do we respond to it? We must know the truth, understand the truth, and live the truth regardless of the consequences. We must be a city set on a hill, salty salt, and our parenting must point directly to God.

VI. We will likely see a greater push toward child autonomy.

- Even “christians” are pushing for children to be able to make their own-life changing decisions at the mature age of elementary school. Cindy Wang Brandt, a “progressive christian” with a “parenting podcast” tweeted: “Do not evangelize a child. Do not colonize a child's spirituality. Do not threaten a child with religious control. Your religion does not have a right to stake claim to a child's allegiance.” Only the problem is that the Bible she says she reads, and the God she claims to follow . . . commands the exact opposite. Sure, we shouldn't use fear to manipulate our kids into following Christ (that would be impossible anyway). But we read a few moments ago that God expects us to teach our children God's law and rear them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. That's a non-negotiable.
- So, in a world where you can post a video on YouTube of your child throwing a massive temper tantrum in a store, but you're not allowed to tell that same child “No,” what is a Christian to do?
- Again, all we can do is soak ourselves in the all-sufficient Word of God. Find and regularly attend a church that roots itself in the Scriptures. And surround yourself with a community of believers who will challenge you and keep you accountable and disciple you.
- Stay true to the Bible no matter how far the world runs from It.

VII. We can expect more fear in 2021.

- Without God — every individual is on their own to figure this life out and make it work the way they want. That's actually really scary. If it's completely up to you to make life work, you will have no hope. Fear leads to hopelessness. And when we feel hopeless, what do we do? We fight to get control of life before it train-wrecks. Fear always leads to hopelessness which always leads to control.
- But God wants us to relinquish our faux-control to His ultimate sovereignty because we have a guaranteed hope that removes all fear from life. Matthew 19:26; I Peter 1:13; Philippians 4:7
- But there's more to this fear-hope-control conundrum. God doesn't command us not to fear simply because people are fearful. It's because fear is a tool that sinners use against other people.
 - Our society knows the cycle. They've all experienced it, and we all know how to manipulate it in others.
 - More and more people are resorting to violence to get their way. But what is this violence? If I'm afraid that what you're doing is going to hurt me, and I lose hope that you're ever going to see things the way I see them and stop treating me the way I don't want to be treated, then I'm going to want to fix this situation. I'm going to want to control you. And — if I have no legitimate authority to make you do what I want — I'll threaten you and resort to violence. I'm hoping that by increasing *your* fear, you'll become hopeless that the threat will ever stop unless you capitulate to my desires. And most people will try to regain control of the situation by willingly going along with the crowd that scares them so much.
 - But that's not the only way to manipulate the fear-hope-control cycle. What if I can scare you with something that's too big for you to control? Well, you'll become even more hopeless. And then what if I can step in with a promise that I can control the situation in a way that you can't. Well, most people would gladly do whatever I say. And so — once again — I control my fear and hopelessness by giving my autonomy away.
- So, what is a Christian parent to do? Rejecting fear is the only way to protect ourselves from the manipulation of this World. I tell my kids all the time, “We do not make decisions based out of fear for anything but God.” Root your every belief, desire, thought, word, deed, and feeling in God's Word. Colossians 2:6-10