



Communiqué 6

Fortress Home

Television is the pits!

But then, it never really was much good except on certain rare occasions; now it is a shameless, unadulterated promotion of those libertine values that are the ruination of any good society and nation. If it's evil, you may rely upon television to approve it. Nothing about it is wholesome. The news is filtered to become propaganda. Entertainment is an edgy mess of quarrelling and tension screamed out by the sort of people you would not invite into your home. The music is debased. The values tend towards nihilism and are fed repetitively to a mass audience that thinks it is being well-informed. The truth is that TV provides the producers with an endless opportunity to condition the masses.

Weapon 1: Turn off the TV! Sell it or use it as a DVD display. Do anything to get control of it. Don't be fooled. You are not being informed by TV, you are being manipulated!

Weapon 2: Remember what the Apostle Paul said to the Roman church of his time which was surrounded by a pagan culture. *"Do not be conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and excellent, and acceptable will of God."* (Romans 12: 2) It can be done, Paul says, but you have to consciously and deliberately turn from that which will **conform** us to that which will **transform** us. TV is a prime means to conform us. Teach this principle within the family.

Weapon 3: Remember, Bible teaching in most homes can be superficial. Parents can become lazy and depend on Sunday School teaching. But Sunday School teaching lasts 45 minutes a week, possibly. The child's exposure to the world as taught by the schools is 25 hours a week. Then, add in the hours of secular TV and the imbalance between the two becomes even more marked.

Weapon 4: Children's TV programming is a particular danger. It has been crafted to fill the child's time before and after school. But what is the diet being fed to the child? Many storylines are a childish version of adult soaps. Quarrels, tension, aggression, violence, early sexual awakenings, disobedience to parents, false religion, the occult even - all fed at high speed through the eyes. Find age-appropriate alternatives: good books, sport, Meccano for boys, Lego for both boys and girls, family games - anything that will teach children to be creative, to think and, more importantly, be independent of the television. Nurture the child's natural talent: some flourish in music, some in art, some in drawing, some in making things, some in producing cards for other people. Train children to think altruistically. Making cards for others helps develop maturity within the child, to see another's need, to take time to support and even pray for that person. In such ways compassion is developed. This is a world away from bullying, from aggression and from 'my rights'.

Weapon 5: Become producers rather than mere consumers. Lift your vision. Take command of a danger to the family. Turn off the TV. Sell it or use it for DVDs. I haven't watched television for years.

Weapon 6: Avoid TV. TV is fast. Research has shown that visual sexual stimuli are fast processed by the human brain. The sight of anything provocative is transmitted in a nano-second by a fast 'bus' to the centres of emotion and action within us. Television producers use this phenomenon to hook adults and children alike.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Philippians 4: 8)

Create a Fortress Home

www.christianparenttalk.org.uk contact@christianparenttalk.org.uk