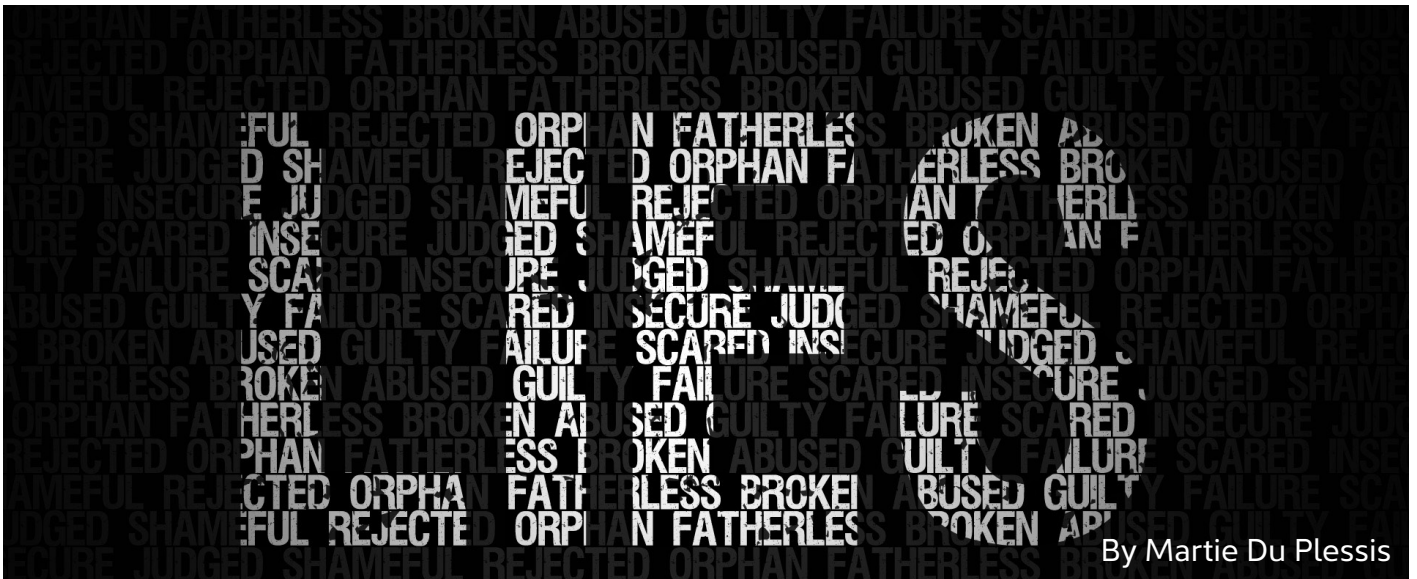


DON'T LISTEN TO THE



By Martie Du Plessis

Parents believe a lie. The lie is that there is no hope for their children just purely on the basis of what parents experience in their daily lives and perceive in front of them. Some of these are: low moral standards in society, bullying in schools, vandalism, weak self-discipline in children, low academic standards, corruption in systems nationwide, high levels of crime, poor management in schools and many more.

What is happening in schools is actually more of a reflection of what is happening in this nation at large. Children in South Africa live with the highest percentage of rape worldwide. According to the Medical Research Council about 3600 rapes take place daily in our country.

South Africa has lost R13 billion worth of money to corruption in Government organizations in 2013. Many of the workers leading these organizations have bought their matric certificate or degree and are not qualified in the first place to lead these organizations. 25 Percent of people in South Africa are without work. We live in a country of high crime and violence and we wonder why there are bullies in our schools.

It is time that we stop putting our hope in the institutions to bring about change in the education system. It is not the task of the school to stop teenage pregnancies and Aids. It was never the task of any institution to bring stability with regards to the upbringing and safety of our children, to change morality.

Parents need to make a mind shift, to realize and understand that parents are and should

be the main educators. Our children are not falling away because the schools or churches are doing a poor job- which is the truth in any way... Our children are falling away because we are asking the school and church to do what God designed the family to accomplish. Discipleship and multi-generational faithfulness begins and ends at home. The church can play a supporting role as it "equips the saints for the work of ministry." (Ephesians 4: 12)

Parents can break the cycle in their families even if they did not have a good example in their own upbringing. They just have to make a decision.

All parents, Christian and non-Christian parents alike, have a common goal for their children... they all want a good education. Some parents want their children to excel in a sport and pay as high as R180 000 for private schools with boarding facilities to let their children have the best. Parents are more concerned about their kids having good grades and playing in the right team than caring about whether they love God and have a relationship with Jesus. As parents we fail to teach our children to have a biblical worldview.

Researcher George Barna found that less than 10 percent of self-proclaimed "born-again Christians" in America have a Biblical worldview. What's worse, he found that only 51 percent of America's pastors have a biblical worldview. Barna writes: "The most important point is that you can't give people what you don't have. The low percentage of Christians who have a biblical worldview is a direct reflection of the fact that half of our primary religious

teachers and leaders do not have one."

Our worldview shapes the way we think and Scripture determine what we think. So parents need to instruct their children in the Word of God. There can be no biblical worldview without families knowing the word of God. The manual for this training is the Holy Bible. God has given us everything we need for life and godliness (2 Timothy 3: 16 - 17); 2 Peter 1:3). The book of Proverbs is full of valuable child-training information.

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The answer is not to have a legalistic view of issues in life. This simply sets up external, extra-biblical standards that take the place of

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biblical thinking. When we instil legalism in our homes, our children will have a different set of behaviour when we turn our backs. This is not what parents want. We want our children to stand on a strong spiritual base in this life.

So many parents think they don't have enough Bible knowledge to teach their children. Nothing could be further from the truth. If you can read, you can teach your children God's Word. All you have to do is stay a step ahead of them. Don't be afraid. God has given you everything you need to do this. God would not have given you the responsibility unless He knew you could handle it.

The home is the place where parents have the responsibility to teach the children the Bible and its Truths. Our ultimate prayer for our children should be for them to say the words of Psalm 40:8: *"I delight to do your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart."* We must get our kids into the Word of God if we intend to get the Word of God into our kids. The Word teaches how God thinks. It gives a plumb line against which we measure everything else in life.

Unless parents are changed by the Word of God, specifically the man (Father) of the house, the children will not be changed by the Word. (Hebrew 4: 12.

As parents we must move away from humanistic views and be governed

by the Word. We must be people who live the Word of God in our homes. Romans 12: 2 says: *"and do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect"*. If parents find that it is impossible for their children to do this at a public school, parents should choose to home educate their children at home. Education teaches and shapes morality. "It is impossible to separate one's view of God, man, truth, knowledge, and ethics from the educational process." (Voddie Baucham, 2007) "Bad company corrupts good morals." (1 Corinthians 15:33)

"To claim that we can have responsible citizenship and a civil society without first building good character is like believing that we can have trees without roots." Johan Heenan (Nieu-Zeeland educationalist).

"... Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly... 3 ...and he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season, his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." (Psalm 1:1,3)

Martie du Plessis give guidance to families about alternative education, mostly home education. Martie explains to parents how to find the learning pathway for each child to enable the child to be a job creator rather than a job seeker. When parents have more time with their children, they can live a more value based life.



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