

Bible Encouragement for Moms
February 24, 2013

Oppression & Children

Have you ever done a study on oppression? It is a study that could really open your eyes, and cause you to be more careful with your choices, games and friendships involving your children.

I will use a question and answer format for this study.

What does “oppression” mean?

Oppression means to be heavily weighed down in mind or body. It could mean maltreatment, harshness, cruelty. Someone who is oppressed is overwhelmed or crushed.

What does the Bible say about oppression?

The Bible says “**Envy not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.**”
Proverbs 3:31

In explaining this verse, I will draw attention to the common meaning of the word “oppressor.” It means man of violence.

The Bible says not to envy the man of violence. Do not provide your children with toys that express violence. Their heroes should not be violent. They need role models who are gentle, godly, loving, kind, respectful. Give your children examples of what you intend for them to become in the future.

Notice the last part of this verse. “**and choose none of his ways.**”

We are accountable to God as we set violence before our children. They may **choose** that as their lifestyle, because it has been a part of their childhood. They may envy the violent man, and choose his ways.

The Bible says **“He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence...”**
Psalm 72:14a These two sins go together. With violence comes deceit, which is lying. Jesus wants to redeem us out of this lifestyle.

We need to make sure our children are not caught up in violent games, violent talk, or read violent books. This only feeds the sinful, deceitful nature in them, and it will be turned on their parents someday. **They will sneak around with their violence at some point. Deceit and violence go hand in hand.... which leads to another Bible verse to consider.**

Psalm 73:6 says “ Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.” Here we see that pride goes along with violence. Violence brings with it many sins. Let’s give our children a higher standard of living. Steer far away from violent computer games, violent TV, violent media of all kind. We have found it to be completely permeating our society. You must learn to preview anything suspicious. Violence and oppression are hidden in many children’s DVD’s. Be cautious.

Oppression comes in many forms other than what has been discussed, How can I be discerning and give my children something better?

Oppression can come from you, if your attitudes are **harsh** much of the time. Will you learn to spend some time with God everyday, so that the Lord can transform your attitudes, and make you a Mother that is pleasing to the Lord?

Review James 3:14-18 and notice the description of wisdom in verse 17.

1. pure
2. peaceable
3. gentle
4. easy to be entreated (easy to get along with)
5. full of mercy
6. full of good fruits
7. without partiality
8. without hypocrisy

This is our pattern, mothers. These are good and godly attitudes.

How can I keep oppression from our home?

1. Keep an eye on friendships.
2. Pray over your children, with scripture.
3. Be alert to all negative media that comes into the home.
4. Talk about and memorize scripture with your family members.

Mothers, you set the tone in your home. Choose godly music, and work on your walk with the Lord. When you become depressed, it is likely the whole home will be affected.

Read Romans 13:12-14 slowly and thoughtfully.

“The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of light.”

“Let us walk honestly as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.”

“But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and *make not provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof.*”

We are not to make any provision for sinful, oppressive things in our home. We are to cast off any works of darkness. That would include violence and other oppressive sins.

Definitions:

rioting: wild parties

chambering: sexual immorality (guard your heart.)

wantonness: impurity and lustful acts

These are all works of darkness, and are oppressive.

What is the opposite of oppression?

Freedom and contentment. How we all desire this for our homes! Quiet contentment will come as we obey the Lord in this way.