

## Out of the Bubble and inside of the Fence

Relating to the differing parenting styles within the local church

### 1. Greenhouse parenting

- a. Trying to maintain a safe and sanctified environment for children
- b. Avoid all worldly influences that might damage a child's developing conscience and moral innocence, *"I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil" Romans 15:19*
- c. Little or no television or media, avoiding anything violent and/or sexually explicit [*Star Wars* and *Snow White* are no-no's]
- d. Standards can become legalistic and self-righteous
- e. Children's playmates must be from like-minded families, evangelism becomes secondary to personal holiness
- f. Parents are cautious about allowing children to participate in church events/programs, especially youth group (sometimes "anti-church")
- g. Children spend more time with parents than friends
- h. Maintain a high-level of authority and control throughout the parenting process
- i. Typically home schooled and sometimes "anti-school"

### 2. Gated-house parenting

- a. Trying to teach children to live in the world but not of the world, *"I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil [one]."* John 17:15
- b. Attempts to guard worldly influences that might damage a child's conscience, but assumes the presence of a depraved sin nature
- c. Limited television and secular media, allowing some, age-appropriate violent and sexually explicit media [*Harry Potter* and *Gladiator* may be no-no's]
- d. Standards can become legalistic and/or licentious
- e. Children's playmates are from both like-minded and lost families, there is attempt to balance evangelism and personal holiness
- f. Parents require children to participate in age-graded church events and programs
- g. Children spend approximately equal time with friends and parents
- h. Parents graduate from authority to influence over the parenting life-cycle
- i. Typically home or private schooled, occasionally public schooled

### 3. Open house parenting

- a. Trying to give children freedom to live in the world and learn about it first-hand
- b. Allowance of worldly influences within the home, *"All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. 1 Corinthians 6:12*
- c. Unguarded television and music, allowing more violent and sexually explicit media ["Saw" and/or certain R-rated movies may be no-no's]
- d. Parental standards can be too loose, leading toward licentiousness
- e. Children choose their playmates without parental oversight, evangelism is encouraged, personal holiness is less emphasized
- f. Parents encourage children to participate in church events and programs
- g. Children spend more time with friends than parents
- h. Parents tend to use more influence than authority in the parenting process
- i. Children are typically private or public schooled

Proverbs 4:23

"Guard your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life. "