

## **Recognized Danger to Children**

Warren E. Berkley

The March issue of Parents magazine includes an article by Dianne Hales entitled Parents Report: Too Sexy Too Soon. Of course this is a secular magazine with no purpose to call attention to Biblical teaching. And the magazine cannot be endorsed in whole, nor this particular article. What is of interest to me is, some things are so obvious and so threatening to the welfare of children, even those who claim no Biblical commitment at all can see them. And what a spectacle, when people without a claim of scriptural loyalty can see what many professors of faith ignore or take lightly.

The point of the article is to alert parents to the impact of exposure to sexualized language and situations, especially on the very young. Parents are warned about our sex-heavy pop culture, the media's obsession with sex, and the daily reality of children being bombarded with sexual imagery.

Even movies geared toward young children aren't as tame as they were a generation ago. Pocahontas, with her strapless dress and exposed cleavage, is far sexier than Cinderella ever was. Remakes of *The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle* and Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, unlike the originals, are sprinkled with double entendres and sexual references. I agree with the writer who says that popular culture is awash in sexuality, and the point is to take serious measures of instruction, influence and monitoring to guard children. In expressing the responsibility of parents, one warning is: Don't encourage sexual precociousness. You may be sending your child the wrong messages if you buy skin-baring clothing or applaud sexy dancing as cute. I remind you, these quotes are not taken from a preacher's sermon on dancing and modesty. And so I repeat my earlier observation: If people in the secular world can see this threat, how much more should Christians not only be aware of this, but be bold in appropriate teaching from the Word of God.

God has called us to a high and noble purpose. He has not called us to uncleanness, but in holiness, (1 Thess. 4:7). Sexual purity must be illustrated and taught. We must expect purity, instruct purity, monitor children with purity in mind and respond negatively to immoral behavior. We ought to give up any desire to conform to the culture or trivialize risky behavior. Do we need to be reminded that a child left to himself brings shame to his mother? (Prov. 29:15).

(Quotations from Parents magazine, March 2001).