

Keep out bad influences

We live in a dark world. There is no way around that sad fact. The world we live in (generally speaking) has no regard for God's Word. This kind of environment can become a detriment to individuals and families.

However, there is some good news in this dark world. The good news is simple, we do not have to be like the world, and we choose our influences.

Peer pressure is a powerful thing, but not always a bad thing. It is dependent upon who we choose to have in our circle of influence.

Biblical Teaching

- 1 Corinthians 15:33- Is a very well-known passage to many of us. It warns of the danger that bad influences will have on good people.
- 2 Timothy 2:21- Tells us that if we will set ourselves apart from dishonorable things, God will use us for honorable things.
- Genesis 35:2- We see that Jacob had to purify his house in order to continue on.
- Malachi 3:3- Refiner of silver.



Closing the door on the bad

As we strive to be families of faith, we must constantly be evaluating the things that are influencing our families. We must ask, if they are healthy or not. If not, we close the door, our souls, and our children's souls are worth it. What are some influences we may need to close the door on?

- Music that has bad language, and immoral themes.
- Movies/Television that promotes lust/sexual immorality.
- Friends who pull us away from the church/ God's Word
- Family members that do not respect our standards.
- Negative attitudes
- "Present tense living" – We need to avoid the idea that our actions only impact us in the here and now.

Families of Faith

Opening the door to the good

It is extremely easy to point out all of the flaws that surround us in the world. We understand that there are many things that if we give in to them will harm us not just physically, but spiritually, eternally as well.

I would submit it is not enough for us to merely point at the bad and say “stay away from that!” We must also seek out the good (Proverbs 11:27)

- **Seek mentors:** We need people in our lives who will lovingly guide us, and help us direct our lives toward the Lord.
- **Seek wholesome activities:** It is important that we show our children that Christians can have TONS of fun.
- **Seek fellowship:** Acts 2:42 the early church devoted themselves to fellowship (and doctrine) I would submit that our struggles would not seem as big, if we were devoted to fellowship.
- **Seek God:** Deuteronomy 4:29, Psalm 63:1 talk about seeking God. If our minds are focused upon finding the Lord, we do not have time to be distracted by the evils of this world.



Discussion!

1. What would you add to the list of things that we must “close the door” on?
2. What would you add to the list of things we must “open the door” to?
3. What is the hardest for you to close the door on?
4. Do you have a spiritual mentor? If so, how have they helped you?
5. What are some wholesome activities your family enjoys doing?

“Peer pressure is not always a bad thing. Especially not if we have carefully chosen our influences.”