

## Bringing Up Children In A Whole New Millennium

### They Have Mobile Devices Now

I started to subtitle this article “They Have Cell Phones Now”, but I realized that the fact that they carry cell phones is only a small part of the problem now. Many children now have “mobile devices” that they carry everywhere they go. These devices are small enough to put in your pocket and yet more powerful than computers that took up a whole room just 30 years ago. These devices are great in the sense that the child can stay in contact with parents, work or friends in a variety of methods, talking, texting, instant messaging, facebook and other social venues. The other side of that same coin is the trouble that these devices can enable our children to get into. Have you ever thought about what could be done with that device? Well, you have a GOD GIVEN responsibility to take charge and manage what happens with that device.

There is obviously a privacy issue and a trust issue as well. If you don't believe me, just ask your teenage child. Since we all know about this issue, How are you going to handle it as a parent? How are you going to you respond as a child? Parents and children, it is not an issue about parents and children it is an issue about our obligations to the Lord. Children look at **Ephesians 6:1(KJV)** Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Parents, look **Ephesians 6:4(KJV)** And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Are we as parents and children determined to do the will of God or not? If parents and children are determined to obey God, things will work out OK. Not always the way we want, but OK. If a child is not interesting in obeying God, your job as a parent will be much harder. But, you are net relieved of your responsibility because your child is rebelling. You are required to step it up and be a parent! God, as our parent knows all about this. Look at the history of Israel, there were a lot of time where God could be the loving, nurturing parent, but there were many times where he was the hard-nosed, strict disciplinarian as well. It will be that way for us as parents, too. With regard to the mobile devices, I have seen parents ask about what is on these devices and the child say something like, “That's private”, or “Don't you trust me”, and the parent concedes! As a parent you have the obligation to take that device and go through it from top to bottom to see what is going on. You wouldn't dream of letting your child walk the streets all hours and never check on it would you? Well, the same applies to cyberspace, you need to know where your child is going to, who they are “friends” with, when they are using these devices and how they are conducting themselves.

What are these devices capable of? They can download and play full length movies (without regard to the rating of the movie). They can play music that the user listens to through earphones so no one knows (parents) what they are listening to. Parents, do you know what kind of music your children listen to? Have you listened to the words? While I have not listened to much of the modern music, I do try to find out what kind of music it is when I hear my kids or their friends mention a name. I don't where what genre you are talking about, there is not much music fit to listen to. We need to be careful about this. When we constantly subject ourselves to language, loose sexual conduct, rebellion against the system and such like, it WILL wear on us after a while. You can send text messages, e-mails and even update your facebook from almost anywhere (even the pew during services). I have heard several

preachers and elders talking about this problem. Are these messages so important that a Christian can't wait until services is over? With silent ringers and such, you can even go the restroom and take a call during services! Parents it is up to you monitor these devices. You can tell when calls were made. Is your child making calls from church services, classes at school and other inappropriate times? Downloading and looking at inappropriate material is a snap with these devices. There are many ways to use these devices some are good, but some are very bad as well. Will we allow a mobile device to steal our child's heart away from God, as we sit by oblivious to the danger? It's not a privacy or trust issue, you NEED to know what is going on. I encourage parents to take charge of your child's use of a mobile device. Know when they are using it, what they are using it for and where they use it.