
Subject: Re: F*ck you Harry Potter bashers...

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Tue, 26 Feb 2008 05:40:15 GMT

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The practice of telling your kid they can't do something isn't the problem; it's that doing so for no reason at all- or, worse, a reason grounded in ignorance- does far more harm than good. The problem is that people who never learned to think for themselves tend to pass their blind obedience along by force of will (or, in some cases, brute force). That people do this has nothing at all to do with Christianity or any other religion- it has to do with people raising children in such a way that will cause them to actually resent their upbringing and- in the worst case- all semblance of stable, normal behavior.

It is perfectly acceptable, even beneficial to pass one's own beliefs on to one's children. It gives those children a much-needed sense of stability and comfort until they can develop their own beliefs based on- here's the key- experience and knowledge. Experience and knowledge will be acquired one way or another, sooner or later, and the longer they are restricted the greater the shock to the system when they suddenly one day aren't. You can't keep a human being's head locked in a vise until they turn 18; I know not a single person whose parents did that who doesn't have serious emotional and psychological issues today. Not surprisingly, most of those same people have also strongly rejected their parents' beliefs and several of them are still trying to figure out where they really belong. In order to raise a happy, healthy, well adjusted person, you have to stop force-feeding them your own ideology at some point and let them come to their own conclusions- even if that means letting them dabble here and there with things you strongly dislike (so long as those things aren't illegal).

That doesn't mean you shouldn't be allowed to take your child to church or send them to Sunday school, but it does mean that you can't place restrictions on what they may or may not do for the sole purpose of preventing exposure to those things until you can no longer possibly do so and get away with it. All children become curious, and if you don't let them satisfy that curiosity then they will rebel. It's all a question of degree, and banning entirely fictional stories written purely for entertainment goes way too far.

Maybe I'm not the world's leading expert on good parenting, not being a parent myself, but I'll be damned if I can't speak from my own upbringing and my experience in learning how my friends and family were raised. I cannot think of a single example of a person, given an open-minded, understanding childhood (with reasonable discipline and a solid moral foundation of one sort or another), who wasn't far better off than someone forced along their parents' version of the straight and narrow until the day they left for college. I hope I remember that lesson if and when I ever do decide to start a family.
