

View

BEWARE!!

One function of church newsletters, like the View, is to pass along information that may be helpful in our daily walk as parents and concerned citizens. One thing we will do more of in 2009 is to offer information about the media and entertainment. Since both of those play such a major role in our lives today, we need to have accurate information regarding the true source or meaning behind movies, books, music and other media. We should not be naive — all of these seek to influence us in some way. We will be well served if we consider exactly where the particular book, movie, song or TV show is trying to take us.

With that in mind, consider the following, received from a friend of Beverly Vasquez.



Several years ago, Neale D. Walsch wrote a book entitled *Conversations with God*. It became a bestseller and he has since written a total of 21 books, including one entitled, *Conversations with God For Teens*.

"IF THE (UNFORGIVABLE) SIN AGAINST HOLY
SPIRIT (MK. 3:28-29) IS POSSIBLE TODAY, SURELY
IT WOULD BE THIS: TO PURPORT TO SPEAK AS GOD
HIMSELF!"

The titles sound harmless enough; one might imagine that Walsch has taken some biblical passages and expounded on them. However, that could not be further from the truth and these titles validate the cliché, "Don't judge a book by its cover."

In the latter book, the author purports to answer various questions asked by kids using the "voice of God." However, the "answers" that he gives are not Bible-based and, in fact, are flagrant contradictions to the infallible word of God.

The church of Christ

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Services

Sunday Morning Assembly
9:30 AM

Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study
7:30 PM

Classes for all ages.
Private classes arranged
at your convenience.

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For instance (and I paraphrase), when a girl asks the question "Why am I a lesbian?" "God's" answer is that she was 'born that way' because of genetics (just as you were born right-handed, with brown eyes, etc.). Then "God" (through Mr. Walsch) tells her to go out and "celebrate" her differences.

Another girl poses the question: "I am living with my boyfriend. My parents say that I should marry him because I am living in sin. Should I marry him?"

"God's" reply is, according to Walsch, is, "Who are you sinning against? Not me, because you have done Nothing wrong."

To another question, about God's forgiveness of sin, Walsch says God says,

"I do not forgive anyone because there is nothing to forgive. There is no such thing as right or wrong and that is what I have been trying to tell everyone: do not judge people. People have chosen to judge one another and this is wrong, because the rule is "judge not lest ye be judged."

What blasphemy! If the (unforgivable) sin against Holy Spirit (Mk. 3:28-29) is possible today, surely it would be this: to purport to speak as God Himself. Peter warned us: "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the very utterances of God" (I Pet. 4:11). And isn't it

ironic that he seeks to use the truth to teach his lies (quoting from Mt. 7:1 above)?

One thing we know: Walsch has not actually gotten his information from God because (a) God is not revealing himself to individuals today and (b) his teaching contradicts God's own words. Paul said, "Even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we have preached to you, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:8-9). If Walsch is mentally responsible — perhaps, in his

madness, he really believes God has spoken to him? Serial killers have claimed the same! — then he is to be accursed.

Be very careful what you read and what you allow your children to read or see. The devil is smart — he puts the most vile and

destructive material in pretty packages. He is an expert in giving garbage a coating of gold (II Cor. 11:14).

Paul said, "We are not ignorant of his designs" (II Cor. 2:13). But that was Paul; be certain that you carefully examine everything that potentially fills your child's mind.

While you're at it, guard your own mind. Fill it up to the brim with good things. Start with the list Paul gives us in Phil. 4:8 — dwell on those things.

We can have real and meaningful "conversations with God." All we need to do is

"WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, GUARD YOUR OWN MIND. FILL IT UP TO THE BRIM WITH GOOD THINGS. START WITH THE LIST PAUL GIVES US IN PHIL. 4:8 — DWELL ON THOSE THINGS."
