

Guardian Angels

We have all seen the pictures of angels protecting little children about their daily activities. Are there angels that protect children or at least are present with them and oversee their lives? The Bible says yes!

“Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven” (Mt 18:10).

That information should cause many to think again about what they have, are, or are planning to do to children around them. Alas, such doesn't seem to be true and abuse continues on all sides of us.

However of far greater concern to those who harm children should be the threat of God given directly to them: “But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea” (Mt. 18:6).

Talk to our school nurses and counselors and they will tell you abuse is rampant in our community, not some far away big city that has no affect on our lives. We constantly see the headline grabbers where a child has been seriously hurt or even killed by a parent. These are the worst cases and only the tip of the iceberg.

Emotional abuse is as serious as many forms of physical abuse. Coming from adults children know, respect, and love all abuse leaves psychological marks that may surface years later and change the behavior of a child for life. Parents or caregivers that rule by intimidation and fear cause the same emotional distress as those who physically abuse children. It is harder to detect and seldom reported.

In this age of broken families I find as many children being harmed by the ravages of divorce on the family as I do where obvious abuse or neglect are present. A child from nothing he has done finds himself suddenly caught between the proverbial rock and hard place with nowhere to go. Most withdraw into themselves and silently suffer because they do not want to harm their parents. The stress and anger is already very high so the child will not really open up to either parent, lest the other be harmed. They silently suffer as they are tossed back and forth between two homes like some living ball in an adult game.

In every case I have been involved in for over two decades one or both parents in a divorce are guilty of a most vile abuse of their child(ren). In an effort to either keep or snatch custody from the other parent they constantly run down the other to the child(ren). They often share information far beyond a child's ability to understand and process in their attempt to win the child over to their side. When adults place children in places where they are not mature enough to function alone, give them information inappropriate for their age, or try to force decisions the child cannot make on the child they are committing “emotional incest.”

The result is devastating to children of all ages. They love both parents and for either or both to place such stress on children is abuse! These charges seldom see the courtroom and if they do evidence is hard to come by and nothing is done.

The only hope for these children is for grandparents and other adults involved in their lives to dare to speak up for the child. To stand and be counted, even in a courtroom if need be. All abuse of our children must cease, physical or emotional.

Dr. Chuck Baynard May 2008