

Can You Shelter a Child TOO Much?

By Gena Suarez

Do you “shelter” your children?

That’s a bad word in some circles, we’re finding. Something is creeping into the church (and even the homeschooling community), and it isn’t biblical. It is an “antisheltering campaign” of sorts, and it’s full of holes. Think about it. What does it mean to shelter? *Protect. Defend. Guard. Preserve. Watch over. Shield. Safeguard.* Hmmmm, so far so good, right? Sure, until “pop psychology” comes in and tells us that we should allow our children to taste a little of the world in order to understand it or pray for it—that we should not “over-shelter” them. *Nonsense.*

What’s the opposite of *shelter*? *Expose. Endanger.* We parents are called to be like our Father in Heaven. He is the greatest “Shelterer” there ever was, and it is we He shelters—or watches over, protecting us, preserving us, shielding us. Praise Him for this! Glory to God who knows how to parent (shelter) us perfectly. May we as parents follow this model—His model. Let’s continue to shelter (love) our children as He loves us. Dismiss the garbage that crawls in; don’t buy it. We’re promised there will be false teachers, liars in the church. I want to keep my eyes focused on Christ, come what may.

Parents: Keep sheltering them. You are bringing them up in the love and admonition of the Lord, not in the latest “homeschool speaker/teacher.” May you be blessed as you continue to walk in obedience! Lord, thank you for sheltering me. Please never stop. “Over-shelter” if You will (if there is such a thing). Fine with me! *Overprotect, over-defend, over-guard* me; please do! I’ll take it all, Lord. Keep me tight to Your side. I’m safe in that place. There, I can breathe and thrive. It’s where I live.

For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. —Psalm 61:3

Biographical Information

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Gena Suarez and her husband Paul are the owners/publishers of The Old Schoolhouse® Magazine, LLC. Gena enjoys strong coffee, good books and spending long periods of time in the van with her family. Paul and Gena have five children, ages one and a half to 19, and they hope to have a few more if the Lord allows. Come find her at Facebook, or become a “fan” of TOS Magazine’s Facebook page. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Gray-TN/The-Old-Schoolhouse-Magazine/42107471203>. To reach Gena, publisher@thehomeschoolmagazine.com.