

Parenting Tip

How Christian Radio Poisons Boys' Faith

By David Murrow

I recently spoke at a church revitalization conference in Ohio. One of the sponsors of the event was a local broadcaster: 95.5 FM "The Fish" – Cleveland's Contemporary Christian Music station.

The Fish, like most CCM stations, is targeted squarely at women. Two-thirds of their listeners are female. Most are mothers – and many have young children. Moms like to listen to The Fish in the car as they drive their kids to school, to piano lessons, to gymnastics, etc. "The Fish" markets itself under the slogan, "Safe for the whole family." You're never going to hear off-color jokes or songs that glorify promiscuity on the Fish. It's a wholesome mix of tunes and talk that point to Jesus and his teachings.

But there's a problem. While the slogan "safe for the whole family" appeals to young mothers, it's a time bomb for young men. Little Bobby grows up strapped into a car seat in the back of his mother's 2004 Dodge Caravan. Over the years he listens to many hours of The Fish. And thousands of times he hears the words Safe for the Whole Family juxtaposed with songs about Jesus.

The radio station is saying that its music and talk are safe for the whole family – as they should be. However, little Bobby doesn't make this distinction. Thanks to these constant radio reminders, Bobby comes to associate Jesus with safety. Christianity is something akin to his car seat – a boring, pedestrian device that protects little ones from harm.

When Bobby becomes a teenager, he begins to crave adventure. Danger. Risk. He listens to songs that glorify drugs, sex and risk taking. He plays blood-soaked video games that place him in the center of a dangerous adventure. He drives too fast, smokes too much and wears his pants down around his knees.

At the same time, Bobby begins to lose his faith. He feels embarrassed to say he is a Christian. It just feels wimpy and unexciting to believe in Jesus. He starts to skip youth group. Then church. He has absolutely zero interest in Christianity because it's a safe path.

Some of these minivan-raised men return to the faith as young adults, particularly when they have children. But many stay away for good. If you ask them why they won't go to church they'll offer an excuse: "It's boring." "There are too many hypocrites." "I was hurt by someone in the church." These men still believe in God, but fail to see the adventure in following him – in part because of their strong association between Christianity, safety, childhood and mom.

Of course, the radio station is not the only reason Bobby leaves the faith. But the constant repetition of "safe for the whole family" can't be helping. As radio stations pursue middle age female listeners, they unwittingly set young males up to fail. So, what to do? Here are four suggestions:

- * If you listen to a Christian radio station that bills itself as "safe for the whole family," contact the management and ask them to change the slogan.
- * Place courageous Christian men in the lives of your sons. They must see men living out the dangerous mission Christ gives us.
- * If you can afford it, take your family on an international mission trip. Help your boys witness the power of Christ to change the world one life at a time.
- * Tell young men the stories of Christian martyrs. Help them understand how dangerous and counter-cultural our faith really is.

Christian radio is safe – but following Christ is dangerous. We must do a better job helping young men understand the difference. So how about you? Do you listen to Christian radio? Does your local station bill itself as "family safe"?

Marriage Tip

No. 90

MARRIAGE SECRET #3: GIVE

By Mort Fertel

You have some changes you'd like to see in your spouse and your marriage, right? And if I were a betting man, I'd guess your spouse has some ideas too!

So what are you waiting for? Are you waiting for your spouse to make the first move? Are you waiting for your spouse to be more open to it? Are you waiting to feel love?

Most people think that the FEELING of love comes BEFORE we express love. And in the beginning of a relationship, that's what happens. You fall in love and THEN you do acts of love. Your feelings inspire your actions.

But mature love asks more of you. To create a strong LASTING marriage, you first CHOOSE LOVING ACTIONS. Your feelings will follow.

After all, you don't jog two miles or skip dessert because you feel healthy. You feel healthy because you jogged two miles and skipped dessert. So too, when it comes to your marriage, YOUR ACTIONS CREATE YOUR FEELINGS!

Once upon a time, when you fell in love, it was easy to give to your spouse, and you probably enjoyed thinking up new ways to express how you felt through your giving. Remember surprising your spouse with something you knew they wanted? Remember the thoughtful trinket you got?

WITHIN THE NEXT 48 HOURS, give your spouse a gift. Now here's the key. It can't be just any gift. Your spouse has to feel YOU in it. You see, the most important part of a present is that it embodies the presence of the one who gave it to you. This is not a matter of money. This takes time, thought, and energy.

What gift would tickle the soul of your spouse? What could you buy or make for your spouse that would show how much of YOU went into the gift? Don't just buy anything. Make sure it's your spouse's favorite color, made in their hometown, or something they mentioned last week.

Stick with this for a minute. This takes some deep thought, but I promise that if you make a habit of this kind of giving it will TRANSFORM YOUR MARRIAGE.

What could you give your spouse that would make them glow and look at you with intense appreciation? Did they recently mention they wanted something? What's your spouse's favorite dessert? Favorite flower? Favorite sports team (tickets to a game)? Favorite author (new book)? Favorite musician?

I spent a few minutes in a phone "laser" session (part of the Marriage Fitness Tele Boot Camp) with a man exploring what one gift would "light up" his wife. We figured it out and, in retrospect, he believes that giving that gift shifted the momentum of their marriage.

Inside your spouse is a child that wants to be understood. If your spouse is like most people, he/she does NOT feel understood even by you. When you get the right gift for your spouse, they will feel UNDERSTOOD, and connected to you, the giver. When you give someone a gift that says, "I know you, I understand you," you can "melt" them.

This is one of the things we work on in the Marriage Fitness Tele-Boot Camp; how to discover the one gift that will change the momentum of your marriage. And, how to get your spouse TO WANT to give that gift TO YOU too.

From The Marriage Fitness Program

Spiritual Tip

101 Proofs for God: #49 The Moon

By Jim Stephens

From the website:

www.101ProofsForGod.Com

Everybody likes the Moon, right? Have you ever met anyone who had bad things to say about the Moon?



The Moon is associated with love and romance. Songs, poems, and art describe it all the time. We think of it as our friend. Sometimes after a really struggling time or when we are feeling especially lonely, we look up in the sky and are surprised by a full Moon. Then the feeling comes over us, "At least God loves me."

All throughout history the Moon has provided light in the night. It has been of incalculable value to our ancestors. Even today many peoples of the world have to depend on the light of the Moon at night. If it were just an average moon in our Solar System it would be 10 times smaller and give off only 1/20th the light, virtually worthless.



How many wonderful memories do you have over your lifetime that include the Moon?

The cycles of the Moon help us tell time and the passing of months and seasons. Many cultures

celebrate festivals centered on the Moon. Our own bodies have emotional cycles that correspond to 28 - 29 days, known as biorhythms. Women of course have a fertility cycle of similar length.



No other known planet in the whole Universe has a moon like it.

That's all really wonderful stuff. That is almost enough proof for God by itself. Such a truly sentimental rock existing up in the sky that moves our hearts so much is very, very unlikely to happen by accident.

However, I need to tell you more about the Moon. Without it, we would all be dead. We could not survive on the Earth if there were no Moon.

The Moon stabilizes the Earth on its axis. If not for the Moon, the Earth would swing back and forth on its axis up to about 90 degrees instead of just the few degrees it varies now. This would cause unbelievable chaos in the temperatures, climate conditions, volcanoes, oceans and more. Nothing would be stable and we could not live here.



The Moon is primarily responsible for the ocean tides. This constant churning, up and down twice a day, is what cleans and refreshes the oceans and shorelines keeping them from getting stagnant. It stirs up the nutrients in the oceans providing the food sources needed by the tiniest of sea creatures, algae, and oxygen-providing microbes. All life in the sea depends on them. So we depend on them too. Ocean tides are now also being studied as a potential source for clean renewable energy.

The Moon plays a role as a protector in the sky shielding us from such things as asteroids and cosmic dust. Look at all the pock marks on the Moon from collisions. One crater is 8 miles deep and 1,500 miles across, the largest known in the Solar System.

Scientists have been able to learn a lot about the Sun and the Universe only because of the Moon. It is exactly 400 times smaller than the Sun and 400 times closer. What a coincidence! It also revolves around the Earth in the same plane as the Earth revolves around the Sun. This is very unusual and not one of the 150 other moons in the Solar System does it.

Because of all this, the Moon is able to eclipse the Sun. Especially valuable to scientists is the total solar eclipse which allows them the only time they can possibly view the Sun's Corona and take measurements on it. This has led to untold leaps in knowledge in fields such as astronomy.



Gravity is another amazing fact of nature that we learn more about with the aid of the Moon. Sir Isaac Newton was trying to understand the Moon's rotation when he discovered gravity. Here is an amazing fact. If you had to replace the strength of gravity between the Earth and Moon with a long steel pole, you would have to get a pole that is 531 miles in diameter. Think about that! It's hard to even imagine an invisible force that strong. It is estimated at 70 million trillion pounds.

OK. Here comes the best part of all. Scientists don't know where the Moon came from! That's right. As long as they exclude God, they have no viable theory for the origin of the Moon.

There have been a number of theories over the years, but we have sent 12 men to walk on the Moon and they've brought back 842 pounds of rock and dust samples. All those theories fell apart. Known laws of physics and geology would have to be violated if they were true.

Godless theories for the source of the Moon fit into three areas: (1) formation *from* the earth (or fission, somehow a chunk of earth broke off), (2) formation *independent* of the earth (capture, the moon was passing by), and (3) formation *simultaneously* with the earth (condensation, from a dust cloud). For a brief consideration of each and how it fails to explain the origin, see the sources in the footnotes.

The latest theory which is what they will try to tell you in textbooks and on websites is about how a Mars-sized planet slammed into the Earth and ended up creating the Moon. But if you read all the way down the page you can find where they mention the arguments against this theory. For example, it's almost impossible that such a collision could happen. Secondly, even if it did, the Moon would certainly NOT be made of the material that is in the rocks that were brought back. Think that over.

Here's my simplification of what those texts are saying. "Here's the truth about the origin of the Moon. We know that the odds that this is the truth are about 1 in a million, but believe us because we're scientists. It's the truth."

I'm sorry, but in my world, the real world, that is not the definition of truth. And it's not scientific either. If the odds are only 1 in a million that it is true, I would simply call it false, and not lie about it. Scientists who promote lies should have their funding cut off.

Here's a funny description of their state of affairs by one scientist. "The best explanation [for the existence of the Moon] was observational error — the Moon does not exist."

The Moon was created by God. There aren't any other options. There has to be God.

Website URL:
<http://101proofsforgod.blogspot.com/2014/01/49-moon.html>

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