

BISCUITS WITH A DIFFERENCE

Many parents are hard pressed to have to explain to their children why some music, movies, books and magazines are not acceptable forms of entertainment. A father had a particularly original response that is hard to refute.

The father heard all the reasons his teens gave for wanting to see a movie not suitable for children under 13 years. Their favorite actors were in it, they said everyone else was watching it. Even church members said the movie was great. The only thing wrong was that it was unsuitable for children under 13 years, due to the suggestion of sex in it; there was nothing graphic displayed on the screen. The vocabulary was quite acceptable. He only used the name of God in vain three times throughout the film. Yes, there was a scene in which a crowded building exploded, but the violence was within normal limits. It was not so bad. And even if there were some objectionable things about the film, the special effects were fabulous and the plot pure action. But despite all the entreaties of adolescents, the father refused. He did not give a satisfactory explanation for their children. He simply refused.



Later that night, the father asked the teens if they would like to eat some freshly baked biscuits. He explained that he had taken a family favorite recipe and had added "*something extra.*" When they asked about the special ingredient, he calmly told them it was cow dung. However, he quickly assured them that it was only a little bit, and a little manure wouldn't really hurt them. All the other ingredients were the same. He had taken great care in baking the cakes at the precise temperature and at the right time. He was sure that the biscuits would be magnificent. But despite the assurance of the father that the biscuits were delicious, the teenagers refused to touch them. The father was surprised. After all, it was only a little manure. Surely only a little manure will not affect them. He was sure that they would hardly notice the difference.

However, the teenagers stood firm and refused to eat the biscuits. Their father then said that the movie they wanted to see was exactly as the baked cow dung biscuits. We convince ourselves that just a little bit of evil will not matter. Surely it will not affect us in any way. But just as some manure makes a big difference in biscuits, some evil in our hearts will pollute and corrupt our minds more than we realize. If we knew that the biscuits had cow dung we wouldn't eat them because it would contaminate our stomach. Why then will we knowingly pollute our minds? The film industry has led us to believe that most films are acceptable for adults as well as teenagers. But we have to consider the moral conduct of the majority of those who make such films today.

Now, when the children of this father asked if they can see some form of entertainment that is questionable, he merely asks if they would like some the special biscuits. They get the idea, and the discussion ends.