

## Who Owns our Children?

We are facing a battle for the souls of our children. In our country, it has been decided by the powers that be that our childrens' worldviews are to be built around a set of values that we never chose neither can accept. Who do these people think they are, to claim that they have the right to teach our children what they will?

Our country has been rocked by the revelation that our Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshega has decided to unleash a new sex education curriculum on our children at school. The intention is to re-educate our children as to their values regarding sexuality on many levels. The approved text books are drawn up in such a way that creates prurient curiosity to encourage exploration of sexuality in ways that many children are not even aware of at a very young age. From the information and images we have seen and yes – images in text books that are very explicit – so explicit they cannot be published on social media. It is apparent that children are being encouraged to masturbate beginning at grade 4.

We as church leaders consider this in a very serious light.

It is commonly known that many socialist countries consider children to be the property of the state – a blank slate to be brainwashed with state propaganda. We saw this with Mao's little red book, The teachings of Marx and Lenin, Kim Il-sung, and the Hitler-Jugend. Voltaire attributed a saying to Ignatius of Loyola relating to indoctrination of children: "Give me the child for the first seven years and I will give you the man".

*Our Children do not belong to the State.* It is the belief of the majority of the people who claim that they are Christians, that all children belong to God. We believe that all human beings are created in his image and every life is precious. It is our firm belief that parents are the stewards of the growth and development of their children.

Our current legislation – for example about school governing bodies, supports this view. Looking at proposed legislation and this new curriculum, that is all about to change. It is our belief that parents have the God-given right and duty to invest the values they hold dear into their children. As church leaders, we remind all politicians and education officials that they are placed there not as experts to indoctrinate our children to their values, but to support the parents their role. The state may not decide what the morals and values of our children are to be.

They may say they have used some kind of studies to support this. It is well known that for any position a person wishes to take there will be a study to support this. The real question we ask is this: When were the parents consulted about this?

Our Education system has proven itself incompetent to educate our children in basic literacy and mathematics, how much more of a mess are they planning to make in breaking down the innocence of little children and "switch on" their sexuality before the right time? The parents will know when that should be.

It is held that some parents do not teach their children enough about sexuality. That may be true in some cases. In this case the cure is going to be worse than the disease. In every area of morality, many of our political leaders have shown themselves to be far from good models for our children. Self or government appointed experts are not going to help us here.

Parents need to be supported. Strong morals – the core of society- comes from strong families. As the church have the role to do everything we can, (and we need to do much more) to strengthen families in this God given responsibility.

The state needs to back-off from breaking down the authority of parents. It is my concern however that certain lobby groups have moved into positions of influence within the education community, and

are determined to change the morality of our children to supporting their views on sexuality, morals, the authority and role of parents.

We call on all those in authority to recognise that this is a small but vocal minority that we do not want to lead our future in our country. As parents we need to speak up and challenge this on every level possible. This is not the South Africa we prayed for, and fought for.

Children belong to God and parents are the stewards of their future. Our state needs to do everything it can to support solutions respecting this, and not undermine the role of parents!

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