

## **Go Ahead, Confuse Your Kids!**

**By David Wright**

The fleshly mind tends to separate love from limits. This explains why homosexual activists are so hostile to biblical Christianity. Since disciples of Jesus firmly say “no” to a perverted lifestyle, these troubled people cannot even imagine that we actually love them and seek their highest good.

The tendency to separate love from limits appears in our children at an early age. Denied a new toy or candy bar, a toddler may pout or throw a tantrum. He honestly thinks that his parents are behaving in an unloving manner. “Love” and “no” don’t mix.

In the teen years the problem may worsen. Junior, 13, notices that his peers have the freedom to date, stay out late at night, and essentially do whatever they please. To Junior, this permissiveness seems very loving. “My friends’ parents trust them,” he tells himself, “but my mom and dad are mean.”

By this misguided standard, the Lord himself is “mean.” In the book of Revelation, the four living creatures around God’s throne sing: “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” (Rev. 4:8). God is holy, and he insists that we be holy too (1 Pet. 1:16). He sets firm limits. He knows how to say no and mean it.

The goal of good parenting in the teen years is to confuse our children. We set limits—letting them think that there is something defective about our love—and then proceed to overwhelm them with kindness, understanding, patience, and forgiveness. With maturity comes clarity. In time children raised well realize that love and limits mix beautifully!

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