

Preacher's Pen points

Home Security



September 11, 2001 changed a lot of things about America; but one of the most obvious is that it shattered our image of invulnerability to attack. Since that time, a national Department of Homeland Defense has been created to bring about “homeland security”. And, at the local level we see that “household security” is also a concern. More and more families have installed “home security systems”. Presumably such devices will either help ward off criminals or aid their capture. All of these things may have their place; but there is another form of “home security” that isn’t getting much attention—the spiritual kind.

Security Threats

Never has there been a time in our country when more dangerous purveyors of filth and error had such easy access to our homes. Most of that information comes via the media. Entertainment programming is increasing annually with more offerings coming through our cables and satellites that would undermine faith and morality. The Internet has brought a whole new world to our door giving families access to almost every kind of immorality imaginable. Slick cover magazines are produced by the scores reaching for the minds of our youth and adult populations with “advice” about how to be immoral. The video rental market has become a multi-billion dollar business often offering dramatic presentations that make the viewer sympathetic to sinful things. We could go on and on, but the point is that Satan has never had more inroads into our living rooms.

Becoming More Secure

How can we provide more spiritual “home security”? Let me suggest some things to consider.

1. **We should take active steps to monitor the messages coming into our homes.** Surely Christians know the power of thought! And, nothing makes an idea more attractive or powerful than art, whether it be in the form of music or drama. Realizing the power of ideas presented by the media should make us especially cautious in what we allow to be viewed in our homes.
2. **We need to build in protective systems.** Some of those more socially aware have made efforts to put ratings systems into place to caution consumers to the content of music, videos, etc. However, these standards would fall far short of the values of the disciples of Jesus. Thus, we must do more than take the world’s recommendations on what movie to see or CD to buy. We must do our homework and make sure that we put protections in place.
3. **We need to build in active counter-measures.** Instead of merely protecting our homes from bad messages, we need to create an atmosphere where good messages prevail. Instead of spending a night in front of the TV soaking in the world’s immoral values, consider a spiritually edifying alternative. Use the media as a form of education to learn more about God’s creation or how to develop skills in a certain area. Plan family activities that are fun and build good memories for the future. Take your family to a gospel meeting where you can learn more and be encouraged by others who want to live for the Lord.

Take time to do inventory. Is your home spiritually “secure”? —Johnny Felker