

The Realness of God

Fr. Patrick Cardine, St. Patrick's Orthodox Church, Bealeton, VA

The problem of Atheism/Materialism

Parents prepared for the fight

The sin behind Materialism is the ancient sin from the beginning and it is out to destroy your children

Should you be afraid?

What are your options for combating this danger?

Sleep is your enemy.

But my children don't seem to have the capacity to hear me.

The secret to evangelism and that includes evangelizing your kids is to be completely convinced that they are dying to hear what you have to say they just don't know it.

How do we arrest their hearts? By being clever?

Is God real or is God disappearing into the shadows?

It is we who go into the Shadows.

Existence and Life: Only God possesses these things in and of Himself.

Reality by definition is uncompromising. The sin of all of us is to refuse to face this and to imagine that maybe there is a loophole.

Maybe God isn't really quite as obstinate as He says He is. Maybe there is a way to make a square circle or for chaff to live with fire, or impurity to co-exist with impurity, or sin with holiness, that God is hiding this from us but we just might be able to get away with coming to the wedding reception without wearing the proper garment.

Do you know what happens to you if you aren't wearing the proper attire? Do you know how serious this is?

In Matthew 22 there is the parable of the Wedding. It's a rather harsh parable and I think we avoid these bible stories because we aren't sure what to do with them but this is exactly the story you need to be discussing with your kids. It is the very story that confronts the danger we face of thinking God is not real or not taking Him seriously.

The King has his servants bring in anyone they can find to the wedding which they did and when the King came he found a guest who was not properly dressed. What did the King do? He had his servants bind the man hand and foot and throw him into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. Seems a little harsh for being underdressed.

What's the parable really about? Not God's intolerance for bad style. The garment is the robe of righteousness and without it a person cannot be in fellowship with the light. The harsh ruthless action of

the King is to make a point that there is no relativity when it comes to the truth, to what is real, to light and darkness, to life and death. God is He who is, which is to say he is absolute, He is uncompromising, implacable. God cannot not be God, He is immutably God. And that's what we really mean when we say that God is Just, not because he behaves in a certain way according to a moral standard but we are saying that God is absolutely who and what He is without and shifting or shadow of change. And If we don't come to grips with this reality, if we try to play fast and loose with this and finagle things we are going to be in for a rude awakening.

This is what you must teach your kids. There are a hundred ways to say it to them. Use all hundred ways, again and again.

Fight relativism in your own life and in your kids lives. The Devil is a liar and the father of relativism, God is absolute Holiness and light.

The Truth sets us free