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## EXPERTS vs. PARENTS

In Colorado Springs, a family recently had their beloved daughters returned from the clutches of the Department of Social Services (DSS). These parents had their children taken because they committed the abominable act of . . . reading to their children from the Bible every morning.

The cast of characters in this episode include a public school teacher who reported the parents to DSS when one daughter spoke of it during show and tell. Then comes the avenging social worker to rescue the kiddies from the evil clutches of Christianity. The feature player is a county attorney who prosecutes the case in violation of his bar oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States (which, by the way, includes the Bill of Rights and the much vaunted First Amendment) and a finally we have a judge, who actually hears this case instead of summarily throwing it out of his court.

This turns into a classic episode of good prevailing over evil. Not only did mom and dad get their darlings back, but they also got a restraining order against DSS.

DSS made the argument that the parents, lacking theological training, were unqualified to teach their children from the Bible. They asserted that if they did not obtain the required training, they must have an ordained minister present during their devotions.

Surely you can see what naturally follows.

Let's consider the birds and the bees. You know what I mean. As parents, we often prefer to take the responsibility to teach our children about sex. This tends to be an ongoing process.

For example, the toddler asks, "Where do babies come from?" No longer will the parent be allowed to simply explain that mommies and daddies get married and have families and that a baby grows in a special place inside a mommy's body.

It would now require a call to the child psychologist and the pediatrician to schedule an appointment to answer the question that the toddler has, by now, forgotten.

Of course there would be a major production for our pre-teen children. A parent dare not explain reproduction or their changing bodies to these youngsters. It would require a licensed physician to explain the physical manifestations of maturing into adulthood, a psychologist to assess and describe the emotional manifestations, a theologian (from a government approved religion of course) to discuss the spiritual aspects of sexuality and its relationship to marriage, monogamy, and alternate sexual lifestyles, a sex therapist to instruct the kiddies in the joys of sex, and a supervising social worker to insure that the parents don't discuss such esoteric matters with their impressionable children without the proper credentials. They can't be trusted to get it right.

You couldn't bandage a scraped knee unless you were at least a licensed nurse.

Don't say any extemporaneous bedtime prayers, they must be written by an ordained minister.

Don't discuss your legal rights or the constitution unless you are a licensed lawyer.

And, heaven forbid, don't plan your own meals unless you are a licensed nutritionist.

Absurd? Absolutely!

But so is removing children from the home for reading the Bible. In America.

Is there any more doubt that the Family is under assault?