

## **Parenting**

By Ken Ortize

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poet-philosopher Samuabout childrearing, as illustrated by the following struction whatsoever. His his home. theory was that a child's mind should not be preju- Coleridge showed him a

As the youngest diced in any direction. is old he will not turn from of 14 children born to a Rather, he reasoned, when it." (Proverbs 22:6) clergyman in Devonshire, the child became mature England, 19th century enough he should be permitted to choose his own ing children is like pouring some decided opinions the influence of his parents

At first Coleridge story: While a guest in said nothing. A little later Coleridge's home, a well-though, he asked his guest known intellectual in- if he would like to see the formed Coleridge that he garden. He indicated that did not believe in giving he would and followed children any religious in- Coleridge to the back of

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"Why this is not a garden! weeds!"

answered Coleridge, "I did character. The longer the not wish to infringe upon trait is allowed to "set", the the liberty of the garden in any way. I was just giving the garden a chance to exown production."

Coleridge simply reflecting what the Bible said long ago: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he

In some ways, rais-But once they hit puber-

patch of ground that was ty, they begin to quickly completely overtaken by harden into the kind of tant that it should NOT be weeds. The man looked at adult they will become. left to professionals! The Coleridge and exclaimed, If undesirable influences Bible repeatedly states that are introduced and left it must be the parents who There is nothing here but unaddressed, it will leave a permanent imprint on 4:9; 6:6,7; Pro. 23:13,14; "Well, you see," the child's personality and Eph. 6:4). Parenting exmore difficult it is change.

press itself and to choose it weaponized illustration to explain the complex nature of behavior: "Genetics was loads the gun of human behavior, environment (training) pulls the trigger." In other words, there are some things that are hardwired from conception and parents would be. Comcan't be changed. But they mon sense tells us that this can be molded and shaped, so that when the emotional "trigger" is pulled, the barel Taylor Coleridge had religious opinions, without concrete. While they are rel is pointing in a safe, young, they are malleable. healthy and helpful direc-

This is so importrain their children. (Deut. perts like Dr. Katherine Dowling, say the same thing: "If you buy into the...notion that standard-Psychologist use a ized daycare is the best place to raise children, then you must also accept the premise that... breast milk... can be replaced by formula, and that a 21-year-old childcare trainee will be as excited about a baby's first steps as the is just not the case."

> Don't doubt your abilities; and don't abdicate your parenting role. You are the most important and influential person in your child's life. They want and need your train-

Editor's Note: You can connect with Calvary Spokane Church on their social media community, The City, at https://calvaryspokane.onthecity.org. can also check out their many resources available including podcasts at <u>www.calvaryspo-kane.com</u> or call their office at 509-467-2860 for more informa-



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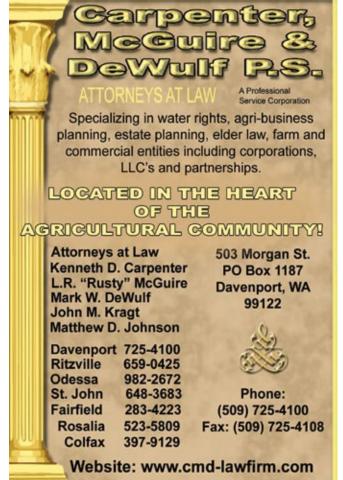
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