

Kung-Fu Humanism?

My kids love to watch the movie Kung-Fu Panda since they received it as a gift last year. I've thought of it as a harmless, kids movie because it didn't have any profanity or sexual innuendos that even some of the "children's" movies that are put out these days. I was lulled into this false sense of security until I heard Zachary, my five-year-old talking with Emmett, my six-year-old. Once again, Zachary was trying to goad his brother by accusing Emmett of doing something mean. Emmett told him, "It was an accident!" To which Zachary took on the persona of the kung-fu guru of this "innocent," panda movie responding calmly and in a low voice, "Emmett, there are no accidents."

"Wow!" I thought, "He picked up a major idea of Eastern Mysticism and applied it from watching a movie about a panda who wants do more than run his father duck's noodle restaurant and dreams of fighting evil alongside of a tiger, a baboon, a snake, and an gangly bug!" Then I thought about the movie and asked myself, "What else did my son pick up?" The moral of this movie is that there is no "secret ingredient" to being totally awesome. Instead, the secret is realizing the power that lies within you all along. This a far cry from what the Apostle Paul writes in Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." The truth is that normal life is severely lacking the "secret ingredient" of the identification of myself with the death and resurrection of Christ which results in my no longer living for myself but for the One who loves me more than anyone!

I know that your kids probably have more "mature" tastes in movies, but I think that my experience is something from which many could learn. **Our kids are picking up lessons in how to view the world around them from sources that even seem to be totally innocent, and we must be helping them to process these through God's truth!** Now I need to ask you the tough questions. Are you aware of, not just what is done, but what is taught in the movies, music, or TV by which your kid is being entertained. I know that we don't have the time to watch every movie, but we could sit down for one or two. Are you checking the content of entertainment sources your young person is choosing to consume? www.pluggedinonline.org is an excellent resource to use to evaluate what is being taught to your young person.

As I recall, I need to revisit the statement that was made by my son about there being no accidents. I want him to see that this is true in a sense, but not by the hand of fate that is somehow married to the power of our destiny. Instead, the greatest being who ever has or will exist is planning out his life for His purposes and glory, and following Him is better than some panda seeking to become the dragon warrior.