





Written by [Selwyn Duke](#) on October 26, 2012

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Little Lord Fauntleroy.” His tone was nice enough, but his message was clear: In just the way that those espousing a sexual modesty considered the norm throughout most of American history are now called “prudes,” I was to be considered a linguistic prude.

But I ask, do you like hearing a stream of vulgar words pass a child’s lips? If not, remember that virtues are caught more than they’re taught. And even though many of us would still guard our tongues when around kids physically, we forget that when using media (the Internet especially) we’re *always* around kids virtually: Some tender eyes will no doubt be watching.

Some will say this doesn’t really matter because children know these words, anyway. But this misses the point. Kids will learn about the birds and the bees eventually, but this doesn’t mean continual exposure to pornography will have no effect. And would children’s awareness of serial killers’ existence mean that a steady diet of snuff films was inconsequential?

So it’s one thing to allow children to know something exists — it’s quite another to *normalize and legitimize* it for them. Hence my use of asterisks when printing vulgar terms, which the aforementioned reader found so Fauntleroyesque. But while people know what the words are, the asterisks send a clear message that they’re not acceptable.

If this still sounds like much ado about little, note that the great thinkers of history would have disagreed. They understood that virtue is real — and it matters. As Benjamin Franklin said, “Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become more corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters.” And to use an Edmund Burke quotation I’ve been wearing out: “It is written in the eternal constitution of things that men of intemperate minds cannot be free. Their passions forge their fetters.”

When you see children spouting obscenities and consider those who’ve raised and influenced them, do they strike you as men of temperate minds? When our president does the same and exerts that negative influence, does he strike you as temperate-minded?

Now, what about those who elected him?

And that is the point. Barack Obama is a classless, overgrown child playing president, but he can only game the system because of a confederacy of corrupted juveniles playing voter. Our problem isn’t that we have to change the political status of one man, which could be relatively easy. It’s that we have to change the moral status of one whole civilization.



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