



Miles Asher Dorai-Ray '25

De Pieces

St. Raimunde

Woodblock relief print | 29cm x 45.5cm
A combination of the ways in which Christian fundamentalists percieve abortion as “child murder,” while simultaneously allowing and even encouraging abuse of children and infants, all in the name of imposing their Christian beliefs onto others.

De Pieces

My Isaac

Acrylic, colored pencil, and plastic beads on canvas board | 20cm x 25cm
Like Abraham willingly taking his son Isaac to be sacrificed, many Christian fundamentalist parents believe that God has commanded them to abuse their children. This has extremely negative consequences on the ways that children think about themselves, with one of the most common feelings being that they are the ones at fault for their experiences.

De Pieces

Abrichde

Screen print on paper | 22.5cm x 34.5cm
The blurb on the back of *To Train Up A Child* by Michael and Debi Pearl, with two fighting dogs superimposed over it. People who experience abuse in childhood are more likely than their peers to become abusive and violent as they grow older.

De Pieces

Important Terms

IBLP: Institute in Basic Life Principles, non-denominational fundamentalist Christian org. Founded by Bill Gothard, who has been accused of sexual assault by many young women and girls.

IFB: Independent fundamental Baptist, disconnected group of Christian families, churches, and other organizations who follow fundamentalist Baptist teachings

NIFB: New Independent fundamental Baptist. Similar belief system, founded by known abuser Steven Anderson.

Parentification: A type of child abuse where the child fills the role of a parent or parents, either by being forced to take care of younger siblings, or emotionally supporting one or both parents.

Quiverfull: Christian and Jewish belief system which rejects birth control and puts control over the size of the family into God's hands. Comes from Psalm 127:3-5.

Xoe, children are an heritage of pe Xord; and be fruit of pe wombe if his reward. Asfarrowes are in be hand of a mightie man: so are children of pe youp. Mapple if be man that hap his quiver full of pem, pey shall not be ashamed: but pey shall speake with pe enemief in be gate.

De Pieces

Types of Abuse

Physical: Aggressive behavior which results in bodily harm to another person or people. Can include beating, kicking, biting, shaking, and burning, which can sometimes result in permanent damage or even death.

Emotional: The use of non-physical tactics which have detrimental effects on a person's behavior, affective functioning, and overall mental health. Can take the form of verbal abuse, intimidation, humiliation, harassment, rejection, withholding of affection, isolation, and excessive control. Parentification is a form of emotional abuse.

Spiritual: A umbrella term for several types of religion-related physical and emotional abuse, including: Emotional abuse where someone uses religion as a justification for all negative events in another person's life, including further physical and emotional abuse; and the use of physical or emotional abuse to force a person to adhere to a certain belief system.

Sexual: Instances of non-consensual sexual contact, or sexual contact resulting from coercion through physical or emotional means.

Amongst members of the IFB, NIFB, and IBLP, interpersonal violence (IPV), sexual assault (SA), and child sexual abuse (CSA) are rationalized through their interpretation of the Bible and Christian theology. Because they believe the Bible to be the inerrant word of God, survivors believe that their experiences of religion-related IPV, SA, and CSA are the will of God, and that they are the only person at fault for those experiences. This makes it hard for them to fight back against their abuser(s), and they may not even be able to recognize that their experiences are abnormal. While research has shown that religious belief is a common method for coping with trauma, religion-related abuse severs the survivor's relationship with their beliefs, taking away their ability to find comfort in their religion.