

# Intersections: Christianity & Today

Stan Schmidt

## Child Substitutes

Definition: **Child**: That which takes up substantial chunks of your time and attention and which is genus Homo.

Definition: **Child substitute**: All of the above except the Homo part.

1. True-False: "A child substitute offers a reason for living."
2. Are some people as attached to their dogs as others are to their kids?
3. Do you ever get tired hearing about someone else's cat?
4. It's easy to see when a child substitute might be good. Are there circumstances in which a child substitute can be detrimental?
5. The older a cat gets, the more it is like a younger baby.
6. Nowadays, chiropractic services are available for dogs.
7. Life insurance is available for dogs!

## Advantages of children (3)

A) "Many children, many cares; no children, no felicity [the state of being happy]."

—Christian Nestell Bovee

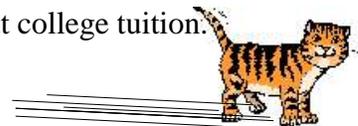
B) Children can take you to the ~~animal shelter~~ the hospice when your time is up. Dogs won't do that for you.

C) An exemption on your income taxes.

## Advantages of child substitutes (15)



- A) No ghastly labor.
- B) No amniocentesis.
- C) No stretch marks.
- D) No toilet training that lasts three years. (A kitten is one week.)
- E) If you don't get along with them, you simply give them to someone in the country.
- F) They don't need braces.
- G) They won't become an alcoholic.
- H) You don't have to attend Little League, soccer games, or ballet practice.
- I) They don't play loud music.
- J) Veterinarian bills are half the cost of pediatricians.
- K) Unless they are really smart, you don't have to worry about college tuition.
- L) You can bury them in your backyard if you want to.
- M) You can get their claws removed.
- N) If you see the play "King Lear," you won't get as nervous.
- O) They don't serve as mother-in-law attractors the way young children do. (That is, you won't have to see your mother-in-law as often.)



(Bonus page included!)

# Stan's List of Child Substitutes

