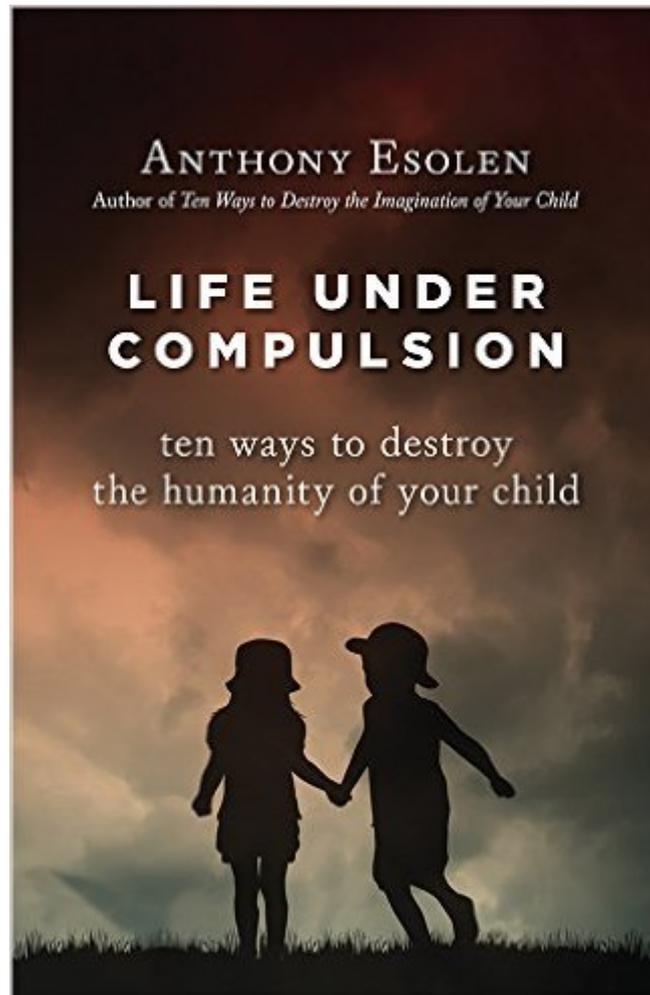


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# Life Under Compulsion: Ten Ways To Destroy The Humanity Of Your Child



## Synopsis

Welcome to *Life Under Compulsion*! Anthony Esolen [stands] in the top rank of authors of cultural criticism. • "American Spectator" How do you raise a child who can sit with a good book and read? Who is moved by beauty? Who doesn't have to buy the latest this or that vanity? Who is not bound to the instant urge, wherever it may be found? As a parent, you've probably asked these questions. And now Anthony Esolen provides the answers in this wise new book, the eagerly anticipated follow-up to his acclaimed *Ten Ways to Destroy the Imagination of Your Child*. Esolen reveals that our children are becoming slaves to compulsions. Some compulsions come from without: government mandates that determine what children are taught, how they are taught, and even what they can eat in school. Others come from within: the itches that must be scratched, the passions by which children (like the rest of us) can be mastered. Common Core, smartphones, video games, sex ed, travel teams, Twitter, politicians, popular music, advertising, a world with more genders than there are flavors of ice cream—these and many other aspects of contemporary life come under Esolen's sweeping gaze in *Life Under Compulsion*. This elegantly written book restores lost wisdom about education, parenting, literature, music, art, philosophy, and leisure. Esolen shows why the common understanding of freedom "as a permission slip to do as you please" is narrow, misleading, and dangerous. He draws on great thinkers of the Western tradition, from Aristotle and Cicero to Dante and Shakespeare to John Adams and C. S. Lewis, to remind us what human freedom truly means. *Life Under Compulsion* also restates the importance of concepts so often dismissed today: truth, beauty, goodness, love, faith, and virtue. But above all else, it reminds us of a fundamental truth: that a child is a human being. Countercultural in the best sense of the term, *Life Under Compulsion* is an indispensable guide for any parent who wants to help a child remove the shackles and enjoy a truly free, and full, life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Here are the factors that make this a three star book. (3 stars means "I liked it", not "really liked it" or "loved it"...)- The writing is excellent. Esolen has a fluid command of the English language and uses many juicy, excellent analogies to hammer home his point. I enjoyed reading his words very much.- The book is mistitled and this is my primary problem with it. One thinks it's a practical manual on how to raise children rich in authentic humanity-- only in reverse psychology Screwtape Letters style. It is not. The book can keep its main title but needs a new subtitle like "a diatribe on how works of Western literature are far more rich in virtue and humanity than today's culture". Or maybe "how studying The Great Books will make us realize how far our society has degraded." The book does not offer practical solutions other than what is obvious: homeschool your children, limit media and have a rich home library. But even that has to be inferred because each chapter is only a listing of what is WRONG with modern American culture.- This book won't add anything to those who are already convinced of its premise... which is the exact audience to which Esolen seems to write. I.e., if you have read Dante, Homer, Shakespeare, etc., not only will you be able to fully appreciate all his references to these writers (which, I kid not, are at least once every two pages), but you will have been steeped in a culture of higher level thinking that makes it almost certain that you already value the values he's preaching on here. Chapter discussions include but are not limited to: mass education (incl.

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