

Television & Movie Choices

People In Your TV Room You Wouldn't Have In Your Home

Television has been described as a medium where you have people in your TV room that you would not have in your home.

How then do these people we would not physically have in our homes and who invade our space through electronic and paper media, influence us?

What attitudes, morals, and behaviours do these celebrities exhibit. As celebrities their personal lives are in the public domain. What do they portray to our children who are often sitting there like sponges absorbing the good the bad and the ugly from them.

The Phillipians 4 Test

Scripture tells us to dwell on those things;- true, honourable, right, pure, lovely and of good repute *Phil 4:8 " Finally , brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on the things".*

Other translations use 'think on' instead of dwell. The Greek word G3056 means to take inventory, esteem, reason, reckon

If we run our television and movie viewing past the Phillipians 4:8 test how does it scrub up.

An inventory of our movie and TV viewing will need to reckon if it is true, honorable right, pure, lovely. Also if there is anything excellent or of good report about it.

We are not left alone to navigate the TV and movie viewing available in the 21 century. We have the wonderful instructions of His word. When they are applied we walk in righteousness.

Many believers have stopped watching TV news and TV programmes, movies etc as His Spirit has led them.

It's not unusual to hear non christians commenting that there is nothing worth watching on TV.

We are to be Holy (set apart) as He is Holy

Psalm 4 tells us we are set apart for Him.

Psalm 4:3 *But know that the LORD has set apart for Himself him who is godly; The LORD will hear when I call to Him.*

We are chosen, His own possession, a royal priesthood

1Peter 2:9 *But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

Jesus/Yeshua said we are not of the world

John 15:19 *"If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.*

We are to be Holy as He is Holy

1Peter 1:16 *because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."*

Entering The Soap Opera Cesspit

Listening to some christian women recently talking about the soap operas they watched, as if the people in them and the parts they performed were real was enlightening. Actors and actresses are people pretending to be someone or something they are not. Many are so good at their craft it becomes hard to separate the reality from the fiction.

Ungodly attitudes, ungodly principles, ungodly beliefs and immorality are regularly portrayed on TV programmes and movies, as well as in the lives of many of those we see regularly on TV through news and other local programming.

If we are telling our children they are to keep themselves pure until marriage and then watching TV programmes with them that portray people involved in sex before marriage, there is a double standard being communicated. Even if they are not watching them with you and they know you are watching them, a double standard is still established.

Scripture warns against double mindedness. **James 4:8** *“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double minded”*.

Lust of the flesh and eyes and the pride of life

1John 2:15,16 *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

(V16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

In these two 1John scriptures we learn if we love the things of the world the love of the Father is not in us.

Specifically, mention is made of the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes which is from the world.

TV and movie viewers are vulnerable to the lust of the eyes, the sense used for viewing.

Then our thoughts kick in thinking or dwelling on what we have seen.

James 1:14,15 *But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.*

(v15) Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

James says we are tempted and enticed by our own desires, and when lust conceives, (dwelling on what we see) it gives birth to sin.

Man being tempted by what he sees is only half the story.

Man is tempted and falls into sin by what he thinks about what he sees.

That is the conceiving process James outlines.

The Cost Of Double Mindedness

Many christian families have lost their children to the world in spite of them being brought up in christian homes. It is very possible the double standards their parents portrayed played a part. Unfortunately many christians go through all the motions, but their lives are unchanged and they cannot be distinguished from the world.

Media has an unhealthy interest in the sordid details of people's lives. We see this in what is considered to be news broadcast daily on television, and all over the covers of women's magazines.

When we leave the world's ways behind there is joy and pleasures for evermore to be found when we walk in His paths.

Psalm 16:11 *You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.*

Voyeurism

Voyeurism is alive and well in our society. Unfortunately, we can easily be hooked into it through TV viewing and buying particular women's magazines. Dictionary.com defines voyeurism:- The practice of obtaining sexual gratification by looking at sexual objects or acts, especially secretly.

The media and women's magazines certainly love looking in bedroom windows to get a sordid story. That raises the question as to what we get out of it if we listen, watch or read it.

Scripture instructs:- "*Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life*". **Proverbs 4:23**

There is a watching, a guarding that governs what we allow our heart to participate in.

Documentaries and Evolution (Evolution)

We used to watch documentaries in place of television.

There is a downside here too as many documentaries constantly espouse evolutionary theory as if it were fact.

Well known commentators on documentaries appear to all seem to read from the same script, 'millions of years ago' etc.

When unproven theory becomes fact, all we end up with is lies, lies and more lies about creation.

No fossil has ever been found in the process of evolving. Why?

Seahorses fossils said to be 13 million years old are the same as sea horses today. Why?

Nothing evolves, it may adapt, but the lie goes on.

It is always good to remember science told us the world was flat and the bible said it was round.

Isaiah 40:22 *It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.*

Most of our children are being exposed to evolution through teaching on it at school and through documentaries. We need to be careful that creation is well explained periodically to negate the onslaught of this ungodly evil.

Let's stick with creation, it's been around for thousands of years and proven the test of time.

The Places The Media Takes Us Without Our Permission

Some years ago while watching an ABC programme a scene unexpectedly appeared of a couple riding a motorbike up a water course. They were not clothed. The places TV and movies can take us unfortunately is often not places our flesh, which has a propensity for evil and the forbidden, needs to go.

Obviously not all TV programmes and movies are bad. Documentaries can be very enlightening and show much of the Creator's handiwork.

Some questions we can ask to determine if we want a programme or movie influencing us or our family:-

Would we have these people in our home?

Does it pass the Philippians 4 test?
Will it communicate a double standard?
Do I or my family want another dose of evolution?
Will it take me places that are ungodly?

As we seek to navigate the 21st century and the things we see, hear and have impressed upon our minds through electronic and paper media sources let's keep in mind we are to be holy as He is Holy. *'Because it is written, 'You shall be holy, as I am Holy' 1Pet 1:16.*

Sometimes that might mean walking out of the movie theatre, grabbing the TV or DVD remote and hitting the off button.
Let's give glory to Yahweh God in all we do as disciples of the King.

Hebrews 13:20,21 *Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord
(V21) equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*