



**CHRISTIAN
ENDEAVOUR**
for Christ and the Church



Choices to make

Media

Teaching Aim

To encourage the wise use of the media.

Setting the Scene

There is much that is good about Television and other forms of entertainment. They provide us with much information and entertainment. However, they do not operate according to Christian principles and often drive people away from Christ. The Media is full of people who are not only not Christians but who actively dislike Christ and the gospel. As a result most programmes give us a twisted world view where evil is seen as good and Christian things are presented as evil. For example, the truth of creation is often mocked and the theory of evolution is presented as fact. The uniqueness of Christ as the only Saviour is rejected and all roads are said to lead to God. God's view of sex as a gift for marriage is rejected and sex is portrayed as something for everyone to make use of whenever they want. You must learn to distinguish between good and bad programming. Only watch the good and so profit from it. Refuse to view the bad at all.

Christians must be different

Read Romans 12:2

Q. What are Christians not to be like? - The pattern of this world.

The non Christian world views everything in terms of self. How can I make the most money? How can I have the most fun? How can I get my girlfriend/boyfriend into bed? Christians should view things a different way. The question a Christian should ask is "How can I best please Jesus and bring Him glory?"

Q. What has to change if you are not to be like the world? - Your mind must be renewed

Everything you see and read shapes your mind. Bad things make your thinking bad. Good things help it get better. Even spending a few minutes watching "dirty" scenes on TV or listening to a CD that mocks Jesus will shape your thinking. The Bible is the best of all for shaping and renewing your mind. You should spend more time reading the Bible than you do watching TV or DVD's

Q. What will a changed mind help you to do? - Know God's will and do what God wants

If the way you think is shaped by TV programmes where God is laughed at and God's laws are broken, then you will want to break God's laws too. If the way you think is shaped by the Bible and by good things then you will be able to know what God wants you to do.

Decide to be Different

Read Ephesians 4 :17 - 24

Q. What are you to get rid of? (v22) - Your old self.

This means you should get rid of all your old attitudes and behaviour. Unsaved people might watch dirty movies or laugh at crude jokes that mock God but you must not.

Q. What are you to put on? (v24) - A new self

One way you can do this is by only watching and reading things which will help your Christian life. Here are some ideas to help you decide what to watch and read:

Choose to be different

Don't worry about what your school friends watch on TV or what DVD's they see. You should stand up and be different. Decide only to watch and read things which are positive about Jesus and his way of doing things. Decide not to have a TV in your bedroom so that you will not be tempted to watch wrong things where no one can see you (James 4:4).

Choose to be careful

Many of the things that you watch on TV are very subtle. The programme pretends to be about good things but teaches bad things. Many youth programmes are full of helpful education about how to cope with bullying, sexual pressure etc. but then they start to talk about these things in a way which goes against Bible teaching. Others show young people happily getting involved in drugs, sex etc. Be careful. If a "good" programme starts to show something "bad", switch it off (Ephesians 5:15).

Choose to watch Less TV

Try a little experiment. Add up all the hours you spend watching TV over the next week. The total will surprise you. Compare that with the amount of time you spend reading the Bible or thinking about God. Then decide to watch less TV. Decide to spend more time with your friends, more time helping mum around the house, more time praying and reading your Bible.

Choose things that will help you

Before you switch on a programme, watch a DVD, listen to a CD or read a magazine article. Ask what is this all about? Will it help me to love Jesus more or will it make me want to do things He hates? (1 Corinthians 10 v 23).

Choose to pray about what you watch

Jesus does not want you only to pray about big things. He wants you to pray about everything. Why not ask Him to help you decide what programmes to watch, what magazines to read etc. Remember, if you ask Him, He will help. Remember also that if you would be embarrassed to let Jesus catch you watching something then you should not be watching it (Luke 22:40).

Summing Up

God has given you a mind and He wants you to use it to decide what to watch and what to read. Many programmes and films are good and will give you clean enjoyment or help you learn good things. However, many are made by people who hate Jesus and want to make you hate Him too. They show things that should not be seen and teach things that are wrong. You must be very wise and make the right choices.

Resources

Discussion

- What kind of thing is in a TV programme that you feel to be worth watching? What kind of TV programmes do you think Jesus would watch if He was here today?
- Are there any TV shows or DVD's that you would be embarrassed watching in a room with your parents? Do you think it is OK to watch these if you are alone?
- What can you do to influence the people who make TV programmes, DVD's etc. to be more positive about Jesus?

Prayer Points

Thank God for:

- TV, Books, DVD's that teach helpful things about Jesus and for those that provide clean entertainment and help people learn about many things.

Ask God to:

- Forgive you for watching bad things.
- Help you be careful about what you watch and read.
- Stop people making damaging programmes, dvd's etc.