

# A Biblical Perspective on Modern Media

## Introduction

### The Issue

- What is media?
  - Definition:
    - Dictionary - “Main means of mass communication” ... that “reach and influence widely”
    - Tim - “productions to communicate messages or ideas.
  - Examples:
    - All TV and Film - cable, movie theaters, Netflix
    - All music - records, and streaming
    - All video gaming
    - All news - TV, internet articles, newspapers
    - Books, comics, magazines
    - Podcasts, YouTube
    - Sportscasting
    - Social media - Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat stories, memes
- The prevalence and availability of media
  - Everywhere
  - All the time
  - Smart phones
- Over consumption
  - Binge watching
  - Even the world knows we have too much media
    - Netflix - “Are you still watching?”
    - Apple monitors your amount of time using your devices.
  - *“We consume more media than food and drink and slightly less than we consume air.”*
- \* Have we given proper time and thought to our media choices?
  - Media is a big deal.
  - Have you given it deserving consideration?
  - If you are going with the flow, that’s a bad sign.

### The Problem

- The majority of media is ungodly.
  - Ungodly people make the majority of the media.

- And the majority of the media is made for ungodly people.
- So the result is that the majority of media is ungodly.
- Examples
  - Most popular recent TV series, Game of Thrones
    - 82 nude scenes in 67 episodes.
    - Many internet articles listing the top ten best and/or worst sex scenes in the series.
  - Netflix
    - Of all 37 Netflix original dramas, all are MA except for 3, including all their Marvel series.
    - Shows popular amongst Christians:
      - Stranger Things - average 46 curse words and use God's name in vain per episode (watch 3 episodes = 138 uses of profanity.
      - The Office - "That's what she said".
  - Billboard Top 100 2018
    - The #62 song is "God Is a Woman" by Ariana Grande
    - It's a song about how capable she is as a sexual partner.
    - This is what our Disney child stars grow into.
- Are we as Christians different than the world?
  - The Bible says we are different
    - I Pet 2:11-12: *Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.*
    - Jn 17:16: *They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*
  - But are we actually different than the world when it come to your media choices?
    - Similar to the world?
      - Do we watch and listen to the same things as the world?
      - Do we binge and obsess and consume just as much as the world?
    - Many Christians are
      - I don't hear many fellow Christians making deliberate decisions about their media.
      - We assume all media is okay except for a few terrible exceptions.
      - We should actually assume it's all bad except for a few good exceptions.
      - EX: AMC subscription, so we watch every movie.
    - The problem:
      1. We don't see the damage we are doing to ourselves.
      2. We don't think about how God feels about our choices.

## The Solution

- Let scripture provide an accurate perspective:
  - Media greatly influences us.
  - Partaking in ungodly media is disloyal to God.
  - Discern what media is or isn't acceptable for our consumption.
  - Cut off all ungodly media from our lives.

## **An Abundance of Scripture**

- It's curious that there is an abundance of ancient scriptures about such a modern topic.
- Ancient media
  - Media existed in ancient times:
    - Plays in Jesus' day
    - Your home boy Boaz plays the lute.
  - But was not nearly as prevalent as modern day
- In spite of all the changes we see in our modern media, there is still an abundance of relevant scripture because it's all based on eternal Biblical principles.

# Purity in Media

## Lesson One: How Media Impacts Us

### Introduction

- This shouldn't be our main argument against ungodly media
    - This is the only reason people give for why we shouldn't partake in ungodly media.
    - However...
      1. Not the most important
      2. Easily dismissed
        - They can just deny any negative impact.
        - They can cite that they aren't doing the sins presented in their media.
        - EX: first person shooters, but they aren't shooting people in real life.
  - It's not a very motivating or effective reasoning for people to be more deliberate about their media choices.
- \* However, it is absolutely true that ungodly media does have a negative impact on us, and it is a legitimate reason for why we should not partake in ungodly media.
- \* I will now prove that media impacts us so that we will consider the danger of negative media impacting us negatively.

### Media Impacts Us Greatly

- God uses media impacts us
    - The Bible
      - When God wanted to revolutionize the world by creating His own special nation of people, what did He do? He gave us a book!
      - Acts 20:32: *And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*
      - I Pet 1:23: *for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.*
    - Songs
      - God uses songs to fill us with the Spirit so that we follow His commands
      - Eph 5:18-19: *be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.*
      - Col 3:16: *Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*
  - If God uses media to transform us and fill us with His Spirit, then who can say that media is not impactful?
- Ungodly media impacts us negatively

- We are quick to accept that positive media impacts us positively
  - Bible studies
  - Sermons
  - Camps
  - Hymns
- Why do we deny the negative impact of ungodly media?
  - It's not for any real logical reason.
    - We "know better" - knowing it's wrong doesn't make it right.
    - We are older and more mature - you don't outgrow sin.
    - We aren't committing the same sins presented in the media - more about that later.
  - We don't want to give up the ungodly media because we enjoy it.

## How Media Impacts Us

- It is easy to see that media impacts the world
  - This isn't to prove how media is impacting you.
  - This is just to prove that media has an undeniable impact in the world.
  - Maybe you're the one exception to the rule ;)
- **Our identity**
  - Who and what we identify ourselves as
    - Especially young people.
    - Especially music
  - Music heavily impacts our identity
    - Cultures based off of music taste:
      - Goth
      - Punk
      - Emo
      - Hip Hop
      - Country
    - Music makes cool
      - Music takes a small culture, and then provides the anthem to then propagate that culture.
      - Examples:
        - Grunge - "...we just wear thermals because it's cold"
        - White suburban thug boys
    - Music makes groups
      - People are looking for a group to belong to.
      - Music genres promote a particular culture, so if you like the music, then you accept and doing the culture.
      - EX: Straight Edge
        - Counter punk culture that promoted abstinence of alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs.
        - A band Minor Threat coined the term straight edge, and the scene grew.
        - So many of my friends in high school like the music, and became straight edge.
        - Being vegan was also promoted, so they did that as well.

- So was stealing. My friend stole an Old Navy T-Shirt.
- Then the scene got old, and many moved on and started drinking and doing drugs like normal people.
- Our identity should be Christian!
  - We identify and promote earthly cultures (sports too).
    - Me growing up
      - Growing up I was punk first, and Christian as close second.
      - How I dressed, who I hung out with, and which hobbies I pursued.
    - EX: Identifying with sports team
  - But instead, our identity should be found in Christ.
    - I Pet 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.*
    - We are *His* people. We promote *Him*.

\* We identify ourselves with what we value

- We identify ourselves with earthly culture because we think it's amazing.
- But when we truly value Jesus, we identify ourselves with Him!
- Paul's example:
  - Rom 1:16: *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*
  - EX: my music

• **Our mentality**

- Pride
  - The self-promotion culture of rap.
  - Kanye West - Amazing
    - "It's amazing, I'm the reason  
Everybody fired up this evening  
No matter what, you'll never take that from me  
My reign is as far as your eyes can see, it's amazing  
So amazing, so amazing, so amazing, it's amazing  
So amazing, so amazing, so amazing, it's amazing  
Never gave in, never gave up  
I'm the only thing I'm afraid of  
No matter what, you'll never take that from me  
My reign is as far as your eyes can see, it's amazing  
So amazing, so amazing, so amazing, it's amazing  
So amazing, so amazing, so amazing, it's amazing  
So amazing, so amazing, so amazing, it's amazing  
So amazing, so amazing, so amazing, it's amazing"*
- Vengeance
  - So hard to not want to take our own revenge when people wrong us.
  - Now think about movies and shows that glorify it - Taken, John Wick.
  - They are all about people who are really cool because they're really cool at getting revenge against the bad guys.
- Anger
  - Quote about a hard core song: *If you are like me, then the first three and a half seconds of "Shall Be Judged" make you want to punch a hole through a car windshield."*

- Songs that are about bitterness and anger and also sound bitter and angry make us feel the same way.
- Materialism and vanity
  - Commercials during sporting events that tell you these cars will determine your identity.
  - Seeing the way celebrities live and dress - we want the same things
  - Disney Channel stars are all about being cool and good looking.
- Romance
  - Most important thing.
  - Solution to absolute fulfillment.
  - Redefining love - True love is a never ending romantic high and sex.
  - Examples:
    - Or emo rock - that girl not loving you is the worst problem in the world, commiserate on that.
    - Katy Perry - Teenage Dream
      - "We drove to Cali and got drunk on the beach*
      - Got a motel and built a fort out of sheets*
      - I finally found you, my missing puzzle piece, I'm complete*
      - Let's go all the way tonight*
      - No regrets, just love"*

\* We know that music affects our mood. Our mentality is just the extended version of that. Where it affects our mood long enough to then affect the way our brain is wired to think.

- **Our purity**
  - Guys
    - Seeing sexualized women everywhere - basketball girls.
    - How is our society doing with that?
    - How are Christians males doing with sexual purity?
  - Women -
    - Temptation to be sensual.
    - Also the same problems as guys.
- **Our standards**
  - Desensitization
    - The more we are exposed to ungodliness, the more normal it seems.
    - We no longer see it as bad, harmful, and evil.
    - EX: shock value
  - Examples of changed standards:
    - Gone With the Wind (1939)- one "D word" on the; Christians banned against it.
    - Modesty
- **Our values**
  - Children's entertainment:
    - "Believe in yourself and follow your dreams!" - seems harmless, but it promotes self-focused pursuit if fulfillment from the things of the world.
    - Acceptance of everyone for who they are
      - Again a positive message that has really helped in many ways.

- But it's also focused on the celebration of everyone's lifestyle regardless of their choices, including their sexuality.
- EX:
  - Happy Feet - a penguin rejected by his father because he can't sing, until his dad accepts him for who he is.
  - A Shark's Tale - a shark is rejected by his father because he doesn't want to eat meat until his dad accepts him for who he is.
  - Paranorman - a son is rejected by his father because he can see ghosts until his dad accepts him for who he is.
  - Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs - a son is rejected by his father because he is an inventor, until His dad accepts him for who he is.
  - How to Train Your Dragon - a son is rejected by his father because he doesn't want to slay dragons, until his father accepts him for who he is.
  - Frozen - a girl is isolated because she's misunderstood, and causes great trouble until she accepts herself for who she really is.
- This trains our thinking that it's always wrong to disapprove of anyone for anything, which heavily influences how we read and think of scripture.
- Blurring lines between good and evil
  - People doing evil things for "good" motives.
  - All antagonists are just misunderstood.
  - Protagonists are heavily flawed or bad people.
- **Our conviction**
  - If I am watching ungodly media, I feel spiritually compromised.
  - That will weaken my conviction to stand strong against sin when I'm tempted in other ways.
  - If I'm already partaking in ungodliness on my TV, why not also in my life?

## Conclusion

- You are what you eat
  - Mat 6:22-23: *"The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!"*
  - We become what we consume.
  - If we are consuming darkness, then that's what we'll be.
  - If you say otherwise, you're arguing against God.
- We need to consume the light
  - Mat 5:6: *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*
  - It's not just about not consuming bad media.
  - We need to consume the good stuff.
  - How much better if we hungry and thirst for the light.



# Purity in Media

## Lesson Two: Partaking in Ungodly Media Is Disloyalty Toward God

### Introduction

- Yes, it impacts us...
- But more importantly is how it impacts God - our relationship with Him.
  
- This is what changed me - still governs my media choices.

## I Corinthians 10: Partaking in Ungodly Media Is Fellowship With Ungodliness

### • The context

- The full context is I Corinthians 8-10.
- These chapters relate to the issue of whether or not it's lawful to eat meat's sacrificed to idols.
- Understanding "meats sacrificed to idols"
  - The nature of pagan sacrifices in Greco-Roman society - very commonplace
  
  - It would be tempting for Christians to compromise and partake
  
  - However it's prohibited in the new covenant
    - Acts 15:28: *"For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials: that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication; if you keep yourselves free from such things, you will do well."*
    - Rev 2:14: *But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality.*
    - Rev 2:20: *But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.*
  
- The Corinthian situation
  - Some thought they could partake in idol sacrifices because they knew the gods were fake, and were thus not technically worshipping.
  - In I Corinthians 8, Paul argues that, "even so... you're still a bad influence on others."
  - But when Paul gets to chapter 10 he's arguing that they need to stop eating meat sacrificed to idols because it's still idolatry no matter what you think about it.

### • Israelites:

- 1-6: The bad example of the Israelites
  - Received blessings
  - Still destroyed for sin
- 7-13: their sin
  - 7: Idolatry
  - 8: Immorality
  - 9: Testing God
  - 10: Complaining against God
- **The Corinthians**
  - 10-13: About sin
    - 12: Be warned! Don't be arrogant
    - 13: No sin we commit is excusable.
  - 14-15: About idolatry
    - 14: Flee idolatry - they were too close, justifying
    - 15: Have good judgment
  - **16-22: Understanding partaking and fellowship**
    - 16-18: Partaking and fellowshiping with God.
      - The Lord's Supper in the NT
        - Fellowshiping with Christ
          - Partaking in cup of blessing is fellowshiping in the blood of Christ.
          - Partaking in the bread is fellowshiping with the body of Christ.
        - Fellowshiping with each other: being one body in Christ, we have mutual fellowship with each other when we partake.
      - The sacrifices and altar in the OT
        - The priests would perform the ceremonial atoning rituals on the altar.
        - However, the offerer would fellowship in the atonement of the altar while partaking of the sacrificial meat.
    - 19-22: Partaking and fellowshiping with demons
      - Partaking in idolatry is fellowship with demons
        - Paul is not saying that the idols themselves are anything, or represent any actual God.
        - But he is saying that idolatry is a real practice inspired by demons to give worship to something else besides God.
        - Just knowing that the idols are fake doesn't change the fact that it's false worship of a false God.
        - And if you partake in the idol sacrifices, you are sharing with the demons who inspire that idolatry.
      - God isn't going to tolerate divided fellowship.
        - If we partake with idolatry and demons, God won't let us fellowship with Him.
        - All we are doing is picking a fight with a much more powerful God.
- **Application for us and media today**
  - 12 - don't be overly confident in your righteousness
    - Grow up in Christian home
    - Media won't affect me

- 14 - Flee idolatry
  - We need a much stronger stance on sin.
  - Instead of justifying more reasons to get closer to sin and ungodliness, we need to be staying away.
  - We find a lot of reasons to justify partaking in godless media.
  - This shows that our thinking isn't in line with God's instruction.
- 16-22 - we fellowship with the things that we partake in
  - We agree that partaking in spiritual things is fellowship
  - So partaking in sinful media is fellowshiping with ungodliness
    - Even if we ourselves don't practice the sin presented to us in our media...
    - We still fellowship with those sins when we partake in them through media.

Partaking	Fellowship
Singing along with a song about being in the club	Fellowshipping with immorality
Going to see a movie with lots of cursing	Fellowshipping with corruption and indecency
Sharing an inappropriate meme	Fellowshipping with course jesting

**\*** What media are you partaking in? What are you fellowshiping with?

- Enjoy?
- Time and money?

**\*** If you can't do the things you're being entertained by, then stop partaking in that entertainment!

- God doesn't accept divided fellowship
  - God makes it clear that we can't fellowship with demons and with Jesus.
  - We need to choose.
  - If we are partaking in ungodly media Saturday, then we are choosing to fellowship with demons.
  - So are we then really able to fellowship with Jesus the next morning?

**\*** Demon inspired sound a little crazy? Just think of Satan's influence and our spiritual battle (Eph 6)

**\*** Our abstaining from ungodly media is inspired by our desire to be loyal to God

- So the real motive for turning off ungodly media is that we want to fellowship with God and not sin.
- We can't do both!
- God won't accept both.
- So the next time you see or hear ungodliness in your media you need to question if that media is worth hurting and distancing yourself from God.

# Why Is Partaking in Ungodly Media So Disloyal?

1. It's a form of loving those who hate the Lord
  - The example of Jehoshaphat - a good king, who's downfall was loving those that hated the Lord.
  
  - Jehoshaphat and Ahab
    - Jehoshaphat knew Ahab was very idolatrous and still chose to fellowship with him.
    - II Chron 18:3: "I am as you are, and my people as your people"
    - Ahab only called one Yahweh prophet who predicted doom.
    - Yet, Jehoshaphat still joined Ahab in the fellowship of battle against his enemies.
    - He nearly dies.
    - II Chron 19:2: "*Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord and so bring wrath on yourself from the Lord?*"
  
- \* We are loving those who hate the Lord when we are celebrating the wicked ungodly content they produce.
  - "Oh man, I just love....." about a show or music artist.
  - And who was it? What was it?
  - How does God feel about you loving that?
  - Should you love ungodly media?
  - Should you love the ungodly people who make it?
  - James 4:4: *You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*
  
2. It's a celebration of sin
  - How are we supposed to respond to sin
    - Mat 5:4: *blessed are those that mourn.*
    - I Cor 5:2: *You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.*
    - II Cor 7:9: godly sorrow leading to repentance as a result of sin
  
  - How does God respond to sin?
    - Gen 6:5-6: *Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.*
  
  - How do we often respond to sin?
    - We laugh about it in TV shows.
    - We memorize songs about it.
    - We just love and enjoy it.
  
- \* We hurt God when we celebrate rather than mourn sin
  - Loving something that hurts God is disloyal to Him.
  - God hates sin because of how much it harms His people.
  - If we truly love Him, we'll hate anything that He hates for the same reason that He hates it.
  - Ex: Cancer jokes, are they funny? Appropriate? Why not?
  - Psalm 97:10: *Hate evil, you who love the Lord, Who preserves the souls of His godly ones; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.*

3. It's an endorsement of sin
  - Rather than participating in sin, we are supposed to be exposing it
    - Eph 5:11-12: *"do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness but instead expose them. For it is disgraceful to even speak of the things which are done by them in secret."*
    - Rom 1:32: *and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.*
    - We shouldn't do those sinful things.
    - We shouldn't even speak about them, because this also gives approval (Ex: city kids talking about gangs).
    - Instead we should expose sin and show it for the evil that it is.
  - How can we expose sin as being evil if we are consuming it in our media
    - If we aren't supposed to mention these sinful things, then we certainly shouldn't be entertained by them.
    - If I enjoy sin, then I'm not showing it to be a bad thing.
- \* Partaking in ungodly media endorses sin
  - And even if we aren't commit the sins ourselves, our consumption of ungodly media gives approval to whatever sins we are partaking in
  - "I am Tim Bunting, and I approve this message"
  - EX: Shutter Island
  - EX: You tell your kids they shouldn't do it, then together you watch other people do it on the TV?
  - Let's instead endorse the positive things: Phi 1:10: *so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ*

## Conclusion

- You're Christianity isn't about you, it's about God.
- You think the ungodly media you consume doesn't negatively affect you? Fine. Who cares though.
- God is still frustrated and hurt that you are so careless, and indifferent towards sin. God is betrayed that you love the things that He hates.
- James 4:4-5: *You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?*
- God is jealous over you and He cares about what you look at, listen to, and think about. Let's devote all of ourselves to Him in a great demonstration of absolute loyalty.

# Making Mature Choices About Media

## Introduction

- We've considered the principles of why our media choices matter.
- Now we need to consider how to make those wise choices?

## Helpful Tools

- Content review - [kids-in-mind.com](http://kids-in-mind.com)
  - Give thorough reports of content in movies released to theaters.
  - Provides numerical ratings much more accurate and helpful than the generic content ratings.
- Content filter - VidAngel
  - Allows you to know of and custom filter out the content of your choice.
  - Allows you to watch some things that would otherwise be unacceptable.
  - Filters can't fix everything\*
- Content protection - Covenant Eyes
  - Blocks sites
  - Accountability reports of all activity on your device

## Discerning acceptable or not acceptable media

- **Who's judgment do you trust?**
  - Don't just trust the word
    - Worldly Content rating systems are useful, but not sufficient
      - The world doesn't have good standards.
      - EX: PG-13? Ungodliness doesn't become godly just because you're over 13.
    - These ratings can also be arbitrary and inconsistent - not helpful.
    - However, they can be a useful starting point and reference.
      - We know what things to expect to exclude - R, MA.
      - We know what things to approach with much caution - PG-13, TV-14.
  - Trust mature Biblical judgment
    - It's a judgment call
      - God doesn't say explicitly what TV shows you should or shouldn't be watching.
      - This means each person needs to use their own judgment to decide.
      - But that doesn't mean any judgment is correct.
      - We need to find a way to make sure we are making the *right* judgment call.
    - How to make the right judgment call
      - Not everyone has good judgment
        - Heb 5:11-14: *Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an*

*infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.*

- Only the mature who are not dull of hearing and practice the truth will have sufficient judgment to properly discern good and evil.
- Don't trust your feelings
  - It's very possible and maybe likely that you are desensitized and can't see what's wrong with a particular piece of media.
  - Maybe you are dull of hearing and don't have wise enough judgment to discern good and evil.
- Trust mature Biblical judgment
  - Get back into the word and honestly consider your choices to ensure that you are properly discerning good and evil.
  - Look to others who are older and wiser, and trust their judgment of what is acceptable or not, even if it doesn't make sense to you.

## • **Content and Messages**

### 1. Language

- Profanity and cursing
  - Eph 4:29: *Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.*
  - We can't say corrupt words that refer to evil things and ruin our reputation.
  - We shouldn't listen to them either.
  - EX: cursing Deftones
- Crude / inappropriate humor
  - Eph 5:4: *and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.*
  - Eph 5:12: *for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.*
  - Jokes about sexuality or perversion.
- Abusing God's name and other things holy
  - Ex 20:7: *You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.*
  - Mat 6:9: *Pray, then, in this way: "Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name."*

### \* How much is too much?

- Ex: Guardians of the Galaxy:
  - One F--
  - 5 S words
  - 9 anatomical terms
  - 15 D words or hell
  - 7 religious exclamations
- Have rules.
- Kids-in-mind 3 or 4

### \* Is using God's name in vain less evil?

- The world doesn't think using God's name in vain is an evil thing to do, so movies that get cleaner ratings can still do this a lot.
- Is it really less evil?
- Or do you see it as being more evil?

## 2. Sex

- Provocativeness
  - Examples:
    - Nudity -
      - There's only one person of the opposite sex that you're supposed to see naked.
      - Leviticus speaks excessively about not seeing the nakedness of others. It's just wrong to see.
    - Sex scenes -
      - They don't have to "show anything" to be sexually explicit.
      - Are you seeing something on TV that you would feel like a creep if you saw someone do it in person?
    - Immodesty -
      - Watch a movie where main female leads are consistently dressed immodestly? Or known for immodesty?
      - Jumanji? Fast & the Furious? Music videos?
  - Dangerous sources of provocativeness
    - Movies - sex scenes
    - Music - sexual lyrics - imagination
    - Internet and apps - instagram, YouTube, google search, snapchat

### \* Are you being corrupted by sexual immorality?

- You pay the price for any sexual stimulation you choose to put into you? It feeds your desire for immorality.
- Don't complain about struggling with sexual temptation if you're allowing yourself to be confronted with this immorality

### • Immorality

- Maybe it isn't provocative, but does it celebrate immorality? Glorify immoral behavior like dancing and lust?
- Does it promote and normalize immoral behavior?
  - Fornication - doesn't show sex scene, but fornication = true love.
  - Adultery - shows this is being good and acceptable
  - Homosexuality - celebrates, promotes, and normalizes.

### \* Are you supporting immoral behavior?

- Does this media conform to God's standards of sexuality?
- How incidental is the immorality?
- Or how much does the show center around those themes?
- The more it does, the more you are supporting the evil by partaking in that media.

## 3. Violence

- The nature of violence
  - Violence is a reality of human nature.
  - Much of the Bible is violent.
  - But God hates violence
    - Gen 6:11: *Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence.*
    - Gen 6:5-6: *Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.*



- Media glorifies violence
  - Cool to take your own revenge - Taken, John Wick - as opposed to Jackie Chan?
  - Gore is intriguing - Saw, Mortal Kombat
  - Physical abuse is exciting - hockey, UFC

\* Glorifying violence is glorifying evil

- The Joker in Dark Knight - he's such a great character because of how evil he is.
- Those who turn from God become violent
  - Rom 1:28-29: *And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness ... evil ... murder ... strife ... malice ... haters of God ... inventors of evil*
- But God saved us from this
  - Tit 3:3-4: *For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient ... spending our life in malice ... hateful, hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us.*
- We shouldn't glorify a return to evil as

\* What about video game violence?

- This is especially sensitive because *you* are the one doing the violence, *choosing* to do it.
- First person shooters?
  - There's a competitive nature to shooting, i.e, paintball.
  - But the more realistic the more it glorifies and normalizes the violence.
- Grand theft auto? Assassin's Creed?
  - You voluntarily choose to make your player do evil things?
  - As entertainment?
- If it down plays the violence and gore it can help.
  - Blowing up bugs as opposed to killing people.
  - Non violent shooters.

• **Other things to consider**

- Social media
  - What is the content your friends are producing?
    - Continue to expose yourself to more immoral content?
    - Keep worldly influence 24/7?
  - What are the messages you are supporting?
    - Do you support immoral behavior with likes, comments, shares?
    - Or take it as an opportunity to be a good example?
  - One difference: Are *you* the one making the ungodly media?
    - What is your content?
    - What are your messages?
- What if we are ignorant of the content?
  - There is some room for ignorance
    - Watching new YouTube channel.
    - Sometimes random uncharacteristic bad song or episode.
  - But mostly no excuse for ignorance
    - We know what to expect:
      - Content ratings helps us have an idea:
        - Marvel PG-13 for action violence and language
        - Comedy PG-13 for language and sexual immorality

- Drama R for heavy language and sexual immorality or extreme
  - We've seen previous episodes
    - Doesn't always have bad content, but doesn't surprise is when it does.
    - EX: memes
  - There are more tools that help us know more specifically
    - Kids-in-mind
    - Vidangel
  - Don't just jump into something pretending to be ignorant and being all like "ohh... what?? Nooo..."
- What if mixed content?
  - What if most is good, but still bad
    - Are there ways to filter out the bad?
    - Otherwise, the bad will ruin the good.
  - What if I don't like the bad content, I just watch it for the good.
    - I understand the sentiment.
    - Doesn't count though.
    - EX: I don't like the bad memes, but how many corrupt images do I end up seeing scrolling through 100 memes at a time?
  - We compromise because we have a hard time giving up the content that we like so much.
- What are you supporting?
  - Supporting the message?
    - Drugs are good
    - Drugs are bad
    - Drugs are f\*\*\* bad
  - Supporting the artist?
    - How much is their personal life a part of their fanbase?
    - Ex: buy cupcake from baker, who happens to be gay, verses going to a place called "The Big Gay Baker"
  - Supporting anti-god?
  - What about demon stuff?

## Cut Off Ungodly Media

- We need to cut off ungodly media regardless of its value
  - The text:
    - Mat 5:29: *If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.*
    - This statement made 4x.
    - Nothing is so valuable it's worth going to hell for.
  - The application
    - It doesn't matter how much you love the band, movie, podcast, or whatever... if it's sinful / causes you to sin, get rid of it.
    - What does it say if you aren't willing to get rid of it?
- The example of the ephesian Christians
  - The text:
    - Acts 19:18-20: *Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and*

*began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.*

- Converting to Christ required renouncing their old practices and burning the media.
- Valuable things the Ephesian converts sacrificed
  - The books themselves
    - Books were very valuable, written by hand, on valuable paper.
    - *“Fifty thousand of silver” is what it says in the Greek. If those were silver denarii, each one was worth a day's wages for a farm worker or other laborer, so a total of about \$5.5 million.*
    - Each book several hundred dollars at least.
    - Because the content was evil, they couldn't tolerate selling the books.
    - They were burning money.
  - Their line of work
    - They had to renounce their profession and source of income.
    - They had to find new jobs and new sources of income.
  - All their education and training
    - Everything they've been doing to build their trade is now useless.
    - All that time and effort for nought.
  - Their reputation
    - They have to admit that they have been fraudulent.
    - This would anger and cost them their worldly companions.
- The sentiment of Paul
  - The text:
    - *Phi 3:7-11: But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*
  - Paul gave up even more than the Ephesians
    - Friends and family
    - Fame and notoriety
    - Money and comfort
  - How Paul describes the things that he's given up:
    - Loss - take away from what really matters.
    - Garbage - an offense in comparison to what's truly valuable.
  - What Paul wants instead:
    - Value of knowing Christ
    - A righteousness that comes from faith in Christ
    - Know the power of Jesus' resurrection
    - The resurrection of the dead
- \* What is so valuable to you that it's not worth giving up?
  - What band, or movie, or show is not worth giving up?
  - What app do you *have* to have sooo bad?
  - What subscription is essential?

- Do you really need your TV, laptop, or smartphone so much?
- Is your privacy so valuable? Get some accountability!

## **Conclusion**

- Two conversations:
  - “Hey tim, just thought you should know that i snapped my cds and deleted close to three hundred songs off my ipod. Prolly more then \$100 worth”
  - The other said, “I know that I should but...I just feel like Eminem is my best friend.”
- How much does GOD really mean to you? You have the opportunity to show HIM when you get back home.

# Psalm 101: Pursuing Purity in Media

## Introduction

### Psalm 101:

*I will sing of lovingkindness and justice,*

*To You, O Lord, I will sing praises.*

*I will give heed to the blameless way.*

*When will You come to me?*

*I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart.*

*I will set no worthless thing before my eyes;*

*I hate the work of those who fall away;*

*It shall not fasten its grip on me.*

*A perverse heart shall depart from me;*

*I will know no evil.*

*Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy;*

*No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure.*

*My eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me;*

*He who walks in a blameless way is the one who will minister to me.*

*He who practices deceit shall not dwell within my house;*

*He who speaks falsehood shall not maintain his position before me.*

*Every morning I will destroy all the wicked of the land,*

*So as to cut off from the city of the Lord all those who do iniquity.*

- This psalm is about David's pursuit of purity
  - David pursued purity
    - For self - seen by the priority he placed on spiritual things.
    - For the nation - as a king, the nations spiritual welfare was his responsibility.
  - How did David pursue purity?
    1. Loving what is righteous
    2. Hating what is evil
- We need to be like David
  - We need to be pursue purity
    1. Our own personal purity

## 2. The purity of our family

- We pursue purity by...
  1. Loving what is righteous
  2. And hating what is evil

### \* Modern media is a serious threat to our purity today

- Dangers of media
  - It's everywhere
  - It's very corrupt
- Are we protecting our purity from the corruption of media?
  - We are the kings of our domain.
  - Are we protecting our subjects from the enemy forces that threaten them?

## The Importance of Purity - A Relationship With God

- The need for purity
  - David seeks purity so that he can be close to God.
    - *Vs 2: I will give heed to the blameless way. When will You come to me? I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart.*
    - The reason He is pursuing purity is so that God will come near to Him.
  - Purity is essential for having a relationship with God
    - We were close to God in the garden, but then separated by sin.
    - Since, we've longed to be closer to Him again.
      - We want to see Him.
      - We want to hear Him.
  - The Bible presents purity as the key ingredient for a close relationship with God
    - Verses:
      - *Ps 24:3-4: Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood and has not sworn deceitfully.*
      - *Mat 5:8: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*
      - *1 Jn 3:2-3: Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

### \* Pursuing purity is how we pursue a close relationship with God.

### \* The amount that we pursue purity is equal to how much we desire to be close to God

- How to pursue purity:
  - David
    1. Living with integrity - sincere purity
    2. Within his own house
      - Personal - At all times - even in privacy
      - National - Concerning the things he has control over
  - How we pursue purity in our media

- Walk with integrity - sincere purity
  - In our own house
    - Personal privacy
      - Media is very private - headphones, cellphones
      - How pure is your media when no one is looking?
    - Family
      - What media are you allowing to be consumed within your own house?
      - What media are your people consuming in your domain?
- \* What does your media reveal about your relationship with God?
- You are careful and thoughtful to be pure because you want to be close to God?
  - Careless?
    - Consume corrupt media?
    - Don't care enough about being close to Him.
- \* Are you responsible for the purity of your family?
- Are you mindful of what they are consuming?
  - Do you guide and protect?
- \* Because of technology we are more responsible now than ever
- Increased access to and endless supply of evil 24/7.
  - If you aren't actively protecting family...
    - Setting rules and limits
    - Talking to them about why these things are important.
    - Knowing about the music they listen and movies they watch.
    - Knowing what they're seeing at their friends houses.
    - Monitoring their device activity.
    - Keeping them accountable.
  - Then you are guilty of spiritual child neglect.
- \* I'm so glad I didn't grow up in this technology generation.

## Love Righteousness

- Modern media threatens to corrupt us. We need the righteousness of God that purifies us.
- **Righteous things that we should love**
    1. Worship and praise
      - Vs 1: *I will sing of lovingkindness and justice, to You, O Lord, I will sing praises.*
      - We need to sing:
        - Eph 5:18-19: *be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things*
        - Col 3:16: *Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God*
      - This fills us with the Spirit
- \* How much do you love worship?
- In church
  - Personal

- With family

## 2. Scripture

- Vs 2: *I will give heed to the blameless way.*
- Do we pay attention to God's way?

### \* How much do you love God's word?

- EX: Rangers podcast - we listen to the things we care about
- Do we care about what God has to say?
- Read on our own time?
- With family?

## 3. Fellowship with brethren

- Vs 6: *My eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; He who walks in a blameless way is the one who will minister to me.*
- Good examples
- Godly advice and counsel as opposed to earthly.

### \* Do we love being with God's people?

- Mat 12:50: *For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.*
- We like being around similar people - our true family are those with whom we share Christ.
- You love them, not because they are cool, but because they are your fellow worker.

### • **The result of loving righteousness is being purified from all evil**

- Vs 4: *A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will know no evil.*
- Pursuing righteous things
  1. Protects us from corruption
  2. Purifies us of corruption

### \* Loving righteousness is how we can be pure and have a close relationship with God.

### • **Loving righteousness is essential for our purity**

- Actively loving what is righteous is what keeps us from being filled with corruption:

- Parable of demon:

- Mat 12:43: *"Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came'; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation."*

- Parable of the eyes



- Mat 6:22-23: *“The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!”*

\* The choice to neglect consuming good things is the choice to become corrupt.

- We become what we are filled with.
- If you aren’t choosing to be filled with light, you are corrupted by default.

\* What are you filled with?

- Is the consumption of righteous things a priority?
- How much TV vs. Bible?

\* What are your children filled with?

\* The key to your children’s purity is their love for righteousness?

- How can you ensure that your children are pure? You can’t!
- You can only help them love righteousness.
- Their love for righteousness is what will keep them pure.
- Ps 119:9: *How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word.*

\* How can you make your children love righteousness?

- You can’t.
- But you can only help. How?
- EXAMPLE!
- Do you show them that YOU love righteousness.
  - They know you are always at church no matter what.
  - They hear you praying in the other room.
  - They know that you put hymns on in the car.
  - Listen to Bible podcasts on your own time.
  - Have a reading schedule.
- INSTRUCTION!
  - You are on top of them to also fulfill these Bible responsibilities.
  - Make sure they are prepared for Bible classes.
  - Daily reading.
- WORSHIP together
  - Time singing.
  - Devotionals.
- My example:
  - Mom wanted to learn songs in the car.
  - Morning devo’s before school.
  - Always at church.

\* You can help them grow accustomed to righteousness.

- Mat 5: *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*
- Train them to like it the way you train them to like vegetables.

• God’s righteousness is what purifies us from corruption

- God’s word can purify us
  - I Pet 2:1-3: *Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.*

- Jn 17:17: *Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.*
- Because God's word can transform us - our minds, and thus our actions
  - Rom 12:1-2: *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*
  - The word is how we are transformed.

## Hate Evil

1. Hate the work of those who fall away (vs 3)
  - David hates the work of the ungodly
    - Idolaters, oppressors, corrupt business
    - This ruins his nation
  - We need to hate the work of the ungodly
    - Ungodly people are making ungodly media to entertain ungodly people.
    - The results are corruption and sin.
    - We need to hate these corrupt works that further corrupt the world
      - Pornography
      - Immoral music directed towards young people
    - EX: 60's music
  - \* Do you hate their works?
    - Or do you love them? Are entertained by them? Immoral media?
    - Psalm 97:10: *Hate evil, you who love the Lord, Who preserves the souls of His godly ones; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.*
  - \* Do your kids know that you hate evil? Or that you are entertained by it?
    - What are your kids learning about good and evil based on your media choices?
    - What you watch?
    - What you allow them to watch.
    - EX: Shutter Island - so is it okay that I watched it with just Trevor?
2. It will not fasten its grip on me (vs 3)
  - David did not want to succumb to the corrupt influence of evil
    - Oppression
    - Corrupt business
    - Idolatrous marriage alliances
  - Are we addicted?
    - How much sports?
      - Have to watch the game?
      - Memorize all the stats?
    - How much social media?
      - Need to get validation from social media?
      - Post everything?
    - How much Netflix?
      - Have to watch an episode every night...

- Are your children addicted?
  - Obsess over music groups?
  - How much do they care about celebrities?
  - How addicted are they?
    - Always on phone? - social media?
    - Always playing video games?
    - Toddlers with YouTube?

- \* It's your job to not allow them to be addicted
  - You can't let them do whatever they want - don't give them that responsibility.
  - You need to limit video game / Netflix time.
  - You need to make rules about when they need to be off of their phones.
  - Device time limit restrictions - for apps too.

- \* These things are garbage
  - Entertainment accomplishments?
    - Watch the whole season?
    - Memorize the stats?
    - Complete the video game 100%
  - What the Bible says about those things
    - II Pet 3:11: *Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness.*
    - Phi 3:7: *But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.*

3. I will set no worthless thing before me (vs 3)
  - Don't put ungodliness before you
    - Don't do it on purpose
      - Stop watching filthy entertainment.
      - Stop watching questionable entertainment
      - Tit 2:11-12: *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness*
    - Don't allow it to come before you on accident
      - Some times we are ignorant.
      - Other times we are careless.
      - Are you vigilant and alert to keep garbage away.
      - Or are you lax and careless?
  - Don't set ungodliness before your children
    - Don't consume ungodly media with them.
    - Don't allow them to do it on their own time.
    - This means you need to *know* about the media they are consuming.
    - It's your business.

- \* I remember the good and bad of my parents
  - There were movies we couldn't go see, even though other Christians could.
    - That stuck with me.
    - Oh, so I've really got to think about this.
  - I also remember the bad
    - In Norway mom watches a movie with one bad word. Cable version of Mr. Mom?

- She says it's a bad word, but I'm like, oh, so it's okay to watch movies with bad words.

#### \* Shelter vs. endorse

- Is not letting them watch ungodly sheltering?
  - Sheltering is acting as if there is no evil.
  - Not preparing them to face it.
  - Let them be exposed to the sin that goes on around them, and then talk about what they've witnessed.
  - Let the world happen - out of your control - and address it.
- Consuming ungodly media is endorsing ungodliness
  - That's different than you willingly choose to put it before you in your own home.
  - Approving of the ungodliness as being entertaining.
- EXAMPLE: Rock show with dad - some where in between.

#### \* Tools

- Kids-in-mind.com
- Vidangle.com

#### 4. Not in my house (vs 7)

- We protect ourselves from what comes into our houses:
  - Do you let strangers just waltz into your home?
  - Do you leave your doors unlocked?
  - Do you allow anyone into a closed room with your daughter?
- We need to protect ourselves from what comes into our devices:
  - Dangers of modern devices:
    - **Accessibility to everything**
    - **Privacy - no accountability**
  - Back in the day - no TV in your room
  - Now all kinds of evil is right in their pockets - Snapchat
- Don't make provision for the flesh
  - Verse
    - Rom 13:13-14: *Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.*
  - Don't do anything that makes it easier to sin.

#### \* Privacy + endless access to anything in the world = terrible.

- We need to remove the burden.
- Complete
- Take away the opportunity of sin
  - Take away privacy
    - The temptation of getting away with it
    - The danger of not getting help
  - Bring accountability
    - Consequence for action

- Guidance for mistakes

## \* Covenant Eyes

- Cut off opportunity
  - Lock your doors
  - Share phone usage
  - No internet in rooms at night.
  - Parental restrictions
    - Block sites
    - Limit time
  - Lock apps

\* If your household has modern devices and there isn't consideration or action to protect from impurity, you already have problems going on.

### 5. I will destroy lies and arrogance

- Reversing the affects of the lies and arrogance portrayed in media.
  - II Cor 10:5: *We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,*
- Examples
  - God is stupid?
  - Romance is everything!
  - Possession = happiness
  - Amazing experience = fulfillment
  - Social competition
  - Importance of popularity and friends

### 6. And cut off the influence of sin

- David's failure
  - He sinned with Bathsheba.
  - His son raped his half sister.
  - He didn't address it.
  - His other son Absalom was embittered and took over the kingdom and slept with his concubines.
- Because he didn't cut off sin and corruption, it was allowed to grow and increase in his kingdom.
- It is our responsibility to be on the watch to cut off and remove all evil and corruption from our lives and the lives of our families.
- Evil is trying to come through our devices. What are you going to do about it?

## Conclusion