

## Homebuilder's

### Making Marriage Work in a Broken World

#### Lesson 17: Part 4 Technology and the Christian Life—Entertainment.

**Text:** Ecclesiastes 9:7-10; 11:9-10 | 1 Corinthians 10:31

- I. Entertainment is a gift from God. (James 1:17)
  - A. God wants His children to be happy.
    1. Sometimes we say, "God wants you to be holy, not happy".
    2. While there is an element of truth in that statement, it is unwise to place happiness and holiness as incompatible.
    3. We wouldn't say, "God wants you to be holy, not to have enough food to feed your family".
    4. Holiness is a top priority for Christians.
    5. The good news is that you can be both holy and happy!
    6. One of the fruits of the spirit "joy".
  - B. The pursuit of happiness over righteousness leads to destruction.
    1. We tend to corrupt God's good gifts.
    2. We tend to love the gift more than the giver.
    3. So long as we keep God's gifts in their rightful place, then we have nothing to fear.
    4. When we prioritize entertainment over responsibility, we leave the path of wisdom and enter sinful territory.
- II. What are the dangers of entertainment?
  - A. Idolatry
    1. When has entertainment become idolatry?
    2. That can be a difficult question to answer.
    3. Here are a few suggestions:
      - a. Entertainment becomes idolatrous when it is controlling me.
      - b. Entertainment becomes idolatrous when I sacrifice to/for it.
      - c. Entertainment becomes idolatrous when I ask it to do what only God can do for me.
        - i. "My Phone is My Shepherd"  
My phone is my shepherd, It promises me everything I could ever want. It makes me lie down on my couch with mind-numbing entertainment. It afflicts my soul with anxiety. It leads me in paths of comparison and addiction for the algorithms sake When I walk through hard times, it promises me distraction and escape. When I face temptation, It depletes me of energy, sleep, and focus leaving me weak. Screen Time and scrolling will follow me all the days of my life. And I will miss out on the presence of the God of the universe, because of the meta-verse at my fingertips.  
-The 2023rd psalm

## B. Worldliness

1. It is no secret that Hollywood and the entertainment industry does not love God.
2. 40% of top billboard songs contain sexual messages.
  - a. Some genres have sexual messaging in up to 65% of their songs.
3. A study from the Western Journal of Medicine had the following to say,
  - a. “As much as 80% of all movies shown on network or cable television stations have sexual content.<sup>2</sup> An analysis of music videos indicates that 60% portray sexual feelings and impulses, and a substantial minority display provocative clothing and sexually suggestive body movements.<sup>10</sup> Analyses of media content also show that sexual messages on television are almost universally presented in a positive light...”
4. VidAngel looked at the overall stats for profanity, sexual content and violence in TV and movies for 2022 and here's what they found:
  - a. 37 counts of profanity, blasphemy and foul language per hour.
  - b. 15 counts of sexual content, nudity or immodesty per hour.
  - c. 13 counts of violence, blood or gore per hour.
  - d. 75 total counts of potentially offensive content per hour.
  - e. There was very little difference in the counts of sex, nudity and immodesty for PG-13 and R-rated films, with 11 and 11.5 counts per hour, respectively.
5. I think it is safe to say that being entertained by what God hates is wrong for Christians. (Psalm 101:3)

## C. Wasted Time

1. Entertainment belongs in a small category of our lives.
2. It must be managed.

## III. Guiding principles in how to navigate entertainment.

### A. Do all things for the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

1. Is what I am entertained by glorifying to God?

### B. Anything that violates Scripture is sinful.

1. Is what I am watching explicitly sinful?
  - a. Does it glorify or normalize sins such as homosexuality or adultery?
2. Is what I am watching exposing my heart to attitudes and mindsets that are unbiblical?

### C. Do I live for entertainment?

1. Entertainment should not be the substance of our lives.

### D. Prioritize the people in your life.

1. Are the people in your life more important than the fun in your life?