

THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS RELATIONSHIP TO MORALS

A LOOK AT SPEECH AND ENTERTAINMENT

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Our speech patterns today have taken on some of the expressions of the world, even if we do not use the same expressions we are no longer shocked when we hear gutter language
- B. Our society today has gone entertainment crazy. One of the reasons for the lack of interest in schools, churches, etc is the expectations to be entertained
- C. In these two areas along with others areas of conduct we have mentioned we have allowed ourselves, in too many instances to become conformed to the world's standard of morality or lack of it.

DISCUSSION:

I. USE OF THE TONGUE - LANGUAGE HABITS:

- A. Cursing is almost normal speech pattern
- B. Note Ex 20:7; Matt 5:33; Eph 4:29
- C. Euphemism - the substitution of an inoffensive or mild expression for one that may offend or suggest something unpleasant. Example: "gosh"; "golly"; "gee"; "good Lord"; "my goodness"; etc Col 4:6
- D. Nature and use of tongue discussed in Jas 3
 1. Great power: to offend; compared to a fire 2-5
 2. Untamable - can be controlled but not tamed 6-8
 3. Used in contradictory ways 9-12
 4. Wisdom shown in control of tongue 13-18
- E. Christians must let their "yea be yea" and their "nay be nay" Matt 5:37; Jas 5:12;

II. ENTERTAINMENT - RECREATION

- A. Two of the most popular: music & movies
 1. Movies: (pictures that move are not necessarily wrong) (either movie houses or TV)
 - a. Nudity, filthy language, violence, etc: ratings "G"; "PG"; "R"; "X" (rotten, extra rotten)
 - b. Illustration: A girl ask her mother's permission to go to movies; mother is fixing salad and begins putting peelings in the salad; the girl protest and her mother says you don't mind putting garbage in your mind, why your stomach?
 - c. George Gerbner, of the Annenberg School of Communication, is quoted as saying, "If you can write a nation's stories, you needn't worry about who makes its laws."
 2. Music: (not wrong in and of itself)
 - a. Commanded to make music Eph 5:19; Col 3:16
 - b. Music like other forms of entertainment must be regulated by good judgment (morality) based on the standard of God's word

3. "A flood of x-rated music hits airwaves, concert halls, record shops" (U. S. News and World Report Oct 31, 1977)
 - a. A sub-head read "Hot-selling songs with sexually explicit lyrics are moving up on the charts... causing widespread concern about the effects on youth across the U. S.
 - b. Article by Wilson Adams in Guardian of Truth lists five major themes of heavy metal music.
 - (1) Alcohol and drug abuse; (2) Suicide and death;
 - (3) Graphic violence; (4) Fascination with the occult;
 - (5) Explicit sex
 - c. Andrew Fetcher in the 17th century "Give me the making of the songs of a nation, and I care not who makes its laws."

III. OTHER FORMS OF RECREATION AS ENTERTAINMENT

- A. Recreation, in an of itself, is not necessarily wrong
- B. However, some forms of recreation some of which we have already examined are wrong in and of themselves
- C. Even though a particular form of recreation may not be of itself wrong, it can be made wrong by our attitude toward it and the environment and associates involved in it
- D. Anything that I have a choice concerning and I place that before my service to God that things becomes wrong for me

IV. PRACTICAL TEST FOR PRACTICES

- A. IDENTITY: If I do this will it make me look worldly Rom 12:1,2; 1Jhn 2:15-17
- B. DOUBT: If I do this will it leave me with a clear conscience Rom 14:22,23 (if it's doubtful, its dirty)
- C. INFLUENCE: If I do this will it likely have a weakening influence upon others 1Cor 10:23-33; 8:7-13
- D. CONTROL: If I do this will it produce in me inordinate fleshly appetites Col 3:5,6; 1Pet 1:5-7 (inordinate: losing proper control, unrestrained)
- E. ASSOCIATES: If I do this will it bring me under the weakening influence of evil companions 2Cor 6:14-18
- F. Look again at 2Sam 13:12,13 and principles involved
 1. All governed by same standard - God's
 2. Each concerned about relation to others
 3. Each one keep themselves pure

CONCLUSION:

- A. John A. T. Robinson, in his book, Honest To God said "For nothing can of itself be labeled as wrong."
- B. This is the problem that Christians face in the world today. People, even religious people are saying there is no absolute standard of morality or right and wrong.
- C. However, we know better and must adhere to that standard Jhn 17:17; 8:32