

It is Wise to Make Assessments

- **Test all things; hold fast** what is **good**. **22 Abstain from every form of evil.** 1Th 5:21-22
- *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For **all that is in the world** — the **lust of the flesh**, the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of life** — is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.* 1Jn 2:15ff
- World can't create anything new! Can only corrupt the good emotions, desires and morals God created
- God revealed how to use ... anything contrary— evil

Activating Corrupted Desires

- you should **no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18** having their **understanding darkened**, being **alienated from the life of God**, because of the **ignorance** that is in them, because of the **hardening of their heart**; 19 who, being **past feeling**, have given themselves over to **lewdness**, to work all **uncleanness** with **greediness**. **put off**, concerning your former conduct, **the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts**, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you **put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Eph 4:17ff

Our Heart: Most Important

- *every intent of the thoughts of his heart was **only evil continually** Gen 6:5*
- *If we had a meter of last 50 years **→** that direction*
- *the Lord **searches all hearts** and **understands all the intent** of the thoughts. 1Chr. 28:9*
- *Let the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, Ps. 19:14*
- *the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 2 Cor 10:5*
- *Some of the things we do strengthen and fortify these weapons. Other things weaken and nullify.*

Entertainment Reveals Character

- Entertainment = What we watch; vicariously feel and think about (meditate upon).
- Vicarious – using our imaginations to place ourselves into the lives of another and feel what they feel.
- Dangerous in entertainment. If it is good ...
- If it is evil and we vicariously feel ... sin.
- Especially, violence, sexual desires, greed, fear

Entertainment Reveals Character

- If what we watch can pass the test God wants everything in our minds to pass
- *whatever things are **true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are of **good report**, if there is any **virtue** and if there is anything **praiseworthy** — **MEDITATE ON THESE THINGS.** Phil 4:8*
- entertainment creating this is **wholesome**

Protect Your Heart from Entertainment

- *Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life. Pr 4:23*
- All we see, experience, feel and image enters the heart. If evil it contaminates the heart, if good it dilutes the evil moving us back to normal.
- *Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.” NKJV*
- *Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” ESV 1Cor 15:33-34*
- Entertainment – Most likely place to meet evil companions.
- The Stranger

The Evil Companionship we Fear

- *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, **that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also APPROVE of those who practice them.** Rom. 1:28-32*

Approve

- “*suneudokeo* lit., “*to think well with*”
- “*sun = with*” “*eu = well*” “*dokeo = to think*”
- “*to take pleasure with others in anything, to approve of, to assent.*” (Vines)
- “*be pleased with, agree, consent, be willing*”
to think well of in common, i.e. *assent to, feel gratified with:*” (Strong's, Lou and Nida # 4909).

Entertainment Reveal Character

- Emotions we feel when:
- reading a book,
- watching a TV program,
- watching a movie,
- If sinful, we will need to repent of sin
- You can't feel the emotions of sinful lusts without repentance or approval

- Hollywood puts out a steady diet of *unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness*
- These will corrupt/defile our good morals.
- If we watch characters that “*whisper, backbite, hate God, and are violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful.*”
- We either hate their sinful practices and turn it off or we are forced to approve: “**agree, consent, or feel gratified along with**”
- **THERE IS NO NEUTRALITY -- CHOOSE**

Sigh and Cry or Approve?

- God will “*put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.*”
“***Sigh and cry***” is the opposite of being “***pleased with, agreeing, consenting with.*** Ezekiel(9:4)
- There really isn't any middle ground.
- We are either disgusted with and repent/close eyes/turn off(sigh and cry)
- Or we agree with and consent to.

No Neutrality

- *“Vice is a monster of so frightful mien*
- *As to be hated needs but to be seen;*
- *Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face,*
- *We first endure, then pity, then*
embrace.”

- — *Alexander Pope*

Oppressed / Tormented or Approve?

- God “*delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds.*” (2Pet 2:7-8).
- Lot was both **oppressed** (*vex with grievous pains, distressed, with the implication of being worn out by such an experience*)
- and “**tormented** (*experienced mental torment involving sorrow mixed with anger/anguish*).
- These emotions (weapons) protect conscience

Tormented / Oppressed or Approve?

- Could Lot be “*pleased with, agree, consent, or feel gratified along with*”
- And at the same time feel “*grievous pains, with the implication of being worn out by it* and “*experience mental torment involving sorrow mixed with anger?*”
- Clearly sighing, crying, being oppressed and tormented are the appropriate responses to such entertainment.
- How long can we do that and continue watching such coarsening, defiling and corrupting companions?

Entertainment = Vicarious Participation

- While living with the characters we feel:
- sad at tragedy,
- joyous with comedy,
- angry at injustice;
- offended with sin.
- **Every time Hollywood forces us to vicariously witness sin, we should feel like Lot. When they slip moral issues into an otherwise innocent movie, we should be vexed and tormented.**