

WHAT HAS CORRUPTED TODAY'S YOUTH? TELEVISION

Television has come a long way since the post-World War II era when a television became a common household item. Television's role in the home has grown tremendously over the past decades. In the average American home, the television set is on for seven hours and forty minutes, even if nobody is watching. The average American watches four hours of television, so there's three hours and forty minutes the television on without being watched. That means the television has come to be a comfortable fixture in a home and another part of life. It is no longer just a simple source of entertainment. In a 2005 study, forty-five percent of parents said that if they have something important to do, they will use television to occupy their child. Television has become a babysitter.

Television has a huge amount of influence. In the previous article, music's dangerous influence was studied. Music influences its listeners audibly. Television influences not only audibly, but also visually. So today's society can see and hear foul language, sexual references, sexual images, sexual situations, and violence . . . and that's just the commercials. More and more is being accepted and tolerated.

Television's impact on youth comes in specific ways. There are television channels made to target youth. Can this be so bad? It doesn't create a problem if the programming on these channels are actually appropriate, an unlikely situation. There are several channels whose influence on youth is alarming. The obvious one that comes to mind is MTV, Music Television. Then there's a channel that may surprise some in its influence: Noggin, or the "N." Both of these channels are dangerous because of the influence on the age group watching. These channels create the "normal" image for youth.

Recall the influence that music has on adolescents. Now combine that with television's influence, and simply the name Music Television gives a clue as to its impact on youth. Corrupt music lets the listener hear of sex, drugs, and the glorified lifestyle that goes with it. Music Television *shows* the listener the sex, drugs, lifestyle, and the provocative dancing that music encourages. Sight is a powerful sense and a dangerous one. As the saying goes, "Monkey see, monkey do."

MTV's music influence is bad, but there is something worse that influences youth to a greater extent, "reality television." Most people will agree that "reality television" is hardly reality at all, but it makes up most of the programming on MTV. Youth will watch these "reality television" programs and learn how who they perceive as "normal, regular people" react to certain situations. Remember that at this age adolescents are trying to develop their individual identity. They are trying to figure out who they are and what "normal" people their age or older are doing. So youth will attentively watch these "reality television" programs, soak in the information they receive, and then adopt the "tactics" they have learned. All of these "reality television" programs promote everything music does, and then adds an acceptance for homosexuality and a complete disrespect of elders.

There is a channel possibly worse than MTV. It is Noggin, the "N." Noggin is very young children's programming, and then at some point in the day it becomes the "N" and shows much different programming. The characters depicted on the shows on the "N" are closer to the age of the audience than on MTV. Therefore, the influence of the "N" is potentially more dangerous than MTV's. The "N" displays and promotes sexual situations, acceptance of homosexuality, disrespect for elders, and profanity in such a way that youth want to experience everything the characters endure. The youth want the relationship hardships, sexual encounters, and "bad-boy/girl lifestyle." Second Timothy 2:22 tells us we should desire otherwise: *"Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."*

Even more disturbing, these shows are under a television rating of "TV-PG." The "N" is made to grow up with youth. As more shows are added, there is an increasing intensity of the content. I have seen commercials for several shows that are on the "N," and I have seen something disturbingly wrong in them. To see what the youth of this day and age were watching, I watched two of the shows on the "N." I can say I was honestly appalled. When I viewed these shows I was eighteen and figured I had been exposed to plenty. However, I was shocked by these shows made for viewers younger than me. These are popular shows; I've heard people younger than me discussing them in school. These shows have a profound influence on what youth accepts. From personal experience, I have found that the youth in the ages of about 12-15 are far, far more accepting of homosexuality and display far more disrespect for authority than those closer to my age of 19.

Is television the single factor for the cause of corruption in youth? Compared to the previous factors we have viewed, television has the greatest influence. If narrowed down to video games, the Internet, music, and television, television is the single factor most responsible. However, television is not the one and only factor to blame. Television offers many channels, and sometimes we forget the remote control comes equipped with an "OFF" button. There is one more factor to review, and it provides youth with more influence than any of the others.

NEXT ARTICLE: WHAT HAS CORRUPTED TODAY'S YOUTH? – PARENTS

BEN

APOLOGIA

QUESTION: In 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 it appears that the writer is telling us that we cannot associate at all with unbelievers. Is this correct?

ANSWER: The passage under consideration reads as follows:

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." (2 Cor. 6:14-18)

The passage does seem to forbid us from having associations with unbelievers and if it were the only passage that we could find in the Bible on this subject this would be the correct view. However, it is not the only passage that the Bible contains dealing with the association of believers and unbelievers. Methods or principles of interpretation indicate that a passage should not be interpreted independently of all others that have a bearing. We need to consider what the other passages in the Bible have to say about this subject.

Does the Bible mean that we are to avoid unbelievers in an absolute way? The answer we would have to give to this would be "No". If what Paul meant was that we should never in any way

have any association with unbelievers then there are several passages that make no sense. Take for example the following:

- ▶ Christians are commanded to preach the Gospel to all. *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."* (Mat. 28:19-20) How could we do this if we have no contact with them?
- ▶ Jesus had contact with unbelievers. *"And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him. And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?"* (Mat. 9:9-11)
- ▶ Christians are required to do good to all men. *"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."* (Gal. 6:10)
- ▶ Christians who are married to unbelievers are told to remain with their mate. *"But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife. But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any other hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy."* (1 Cor. 7:11-14)

From these verses it becomes apparent that what Paul was writing in the verse considered in question (2 Cor. 6:14-18) was not to be taken absolutely. In fact, note what he says in 1 Corinthians 5:9-10: *"I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world."* This indicates that Christians must of necessity associate with unbelievers.

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From *The Apologia*, March/April 1998

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
Nov. 3 – 5	New Bethel Congregation Cullman, AL	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY)
Nov. 6 – 10	Ashlock Congregation Celina, TN	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY)
Nov. 10 – 12	Dowell Hill Congregation Columbus, IN	Brad Philips
Nov. 17 – 19	Goochtown Congregation Eubank, KY	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY) & Hunter Bulger (Ft. Deposit, AL)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

- 1.How old was Moses when his mother put him in a basket and hid him among the reeds on the Nile ?
- 2.Psalm 10 asks God to do what to the wicked man?
- 3.What was Amos' occupation?
4. The Jews attempted to stone Jesus for saying that He preceded whom?
- 5.In Galatians, Paul said that not even Titus was compelled to what?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

- 1.Who made Adam and Eve coats of skin? GOD (Gen. 3:21)
2. What did Cain say to the Lord about his punishment after killing Abel? MY PUNISHMENT IS GREATER THAN I CAN BEAR. (Gen. 4:13)

3. What did Christ call Herod when the Pharisees told him that Herod would kill him? A FOX (Luke 13:22)
4. Christ made us free. What are we not to be entangled with? YOKE OF BONDAGE (Gal. 5:1)
5. Which of the 10 commandments was not carried over to the New Testament? 4TH COMMANDMENT: KEEP THE SABBATH

Two years have passed since Ray McManus passed away. Ray began the HARVESTER and continued to publish it for over eighteen years. Ray's family and friends now continue the work he began on the HARVESTER. We would like to thank all of those who have kept us in their prayers. We would like to thank those who assist in producing the HARVESTER both physically and financially. Thanks are also extended to those who have sent in articles. Please continue to send in updated meeting times, articles, and address changes.