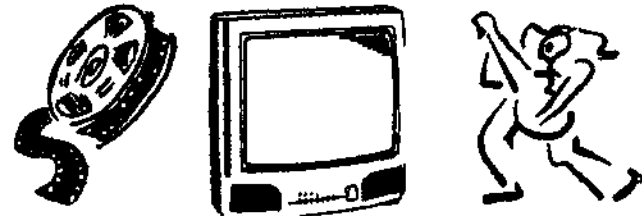


ENTERTAINMENT



It is frightening to think about what subtle, incremental, and cumulative effect the world of entertainment is having on our society ...

If some sudden and drastic change challenges our moral ethics, we usually resist it strongly, but when the morals shift incrementally, our resistance to such change may be broken down incrementally. We must ever be on guard, for, even if we start out despising some evil, we can be influenced to accept it, and, finally embrace it.

As Alexander Pope wrote, in *An Essay on Man*:

Vice is a monster of so frightful mein,
As to be hated needs but to be seen;
Yet seen too often, familiar with her face
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.

Pope's words have been illustrated countless times in the lives of Christians.

As a part of a culture that is dumbing down deviant behavior and is redefining what is right and what is wrong, the challenge is not to allow our minds to become morally desensitized. Regrettably, the influence of the media is so powerful that some in the church compromise their moral convictions and find themselves being entertained by the portrayal of immorality in movies, television, and music.

- David Sain, via *KneEmail* (Mike Benson, Editor)

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2)

THREE THINGS

I know three things must always be
To keep a nation strong and free.
One is a hearthstone bright and dear,
With busy, happy loved ones near.
One is a ready heart and hand
To love and serve and keep the land.
One is a worn and beaten way
To where the people go to pray.
So long as these are kept alive,
Nation and people will survive.
God keep them always everywhere —
The home, the heart, the place of prayer.

- Author Unknown -

Morality and religion are the two pillars of our society. George Washington

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To Ruby Eddy, the McMann & Wright families at the passing of Ruby's brother, Dick Wright. Also to Roy Pratt & family at the passing of Judy Pratt. The Pratts were members of this congregation for many years. God bless and comfort these families.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Join the ladies in this good work.

PANTRY: Soup & crackers.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Dan Williams (Sharon's husband & Brenda's father) will have surgery in the Cleveland Clinic on Friday, Feb. 22nd.

REMEMBER THESE SHUT-IN'S: Fred & Jean Larrimore, Sr.

SICK: City Hospital: Lloyd Ferrell. Calcutta Health Care: Lloyd Cowdery. AT HOME: Helene Wilson, Geraldine Barrett, Linda Parkes, Ruth Brewer, Bertha Seman, Dan Williams. Also remember those posted on the bulletin board who have been shut-in or in nursing homes for an extended period of time.

The Thief In The Church

Someone has recently said, "The greatest challenge to faith is not intellectual at all, but rather shallow indifference." As I personally see it, the greatest threat from within the church today is not false doctrine, vile sins, or even the loss of faith, but rather simple indifference.

Indifference is "the thief in the church." It robs the church of our time, our talents, and our support. Indifference kidnaps the members out of Bible class and worship, saps the enthusiasm of members, sabotages all kinds of good programs, and takes the pleasure out of serving Jesus.

Indifference is the most difficult of all problems in the church to deal with. Many in the church are not against what we are trying to do, nor are they really for it. They are simply "just indifferent!"

"Trust a person little who praises everyone; trust a person less who criticizes everyone; trust a person least who is indifferent."

People can change their minds. A man's right to hold to a certain view does not mean that view is right. One can be led to a fuller knowledge and understanding of the scriptures. Christians can be "equipped" for fuller service and guided in faithful ministries for the Lord. We can grow and mature as we correct our mistakes and become more like Jesus. But ... not if we are indifferent.

- Charles Cash, Crosbyton, TX - via *Bulletin Digest*

