

The Influence Behind Television

We all as human beings need to do some hard thinking about the impact that television has on home life, and our fulfilling the reason for our existence as human beings.

As we study the effect of television we need to include the effect that “*worldly*” internet also has on family life.

Both television and the internet are powerful educational tools, that are mostly misused to the detriment of all humanity.

How has this come about?

First of all we need to remind ourselves of the reason we exist as human beings

The only place we can find this is within the pages of God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

We have to set aside in our minds the delusion of evolution that seeks to explain, unsuccessfully, the origin of the universe without a Creator God, who is Almighty in power, wisdom and authority.

To help you do this there are on the website articles on this subject under the sub-title ‘*Evolution, The Delusion Of.*’

Please download these and study them.

Having accepted the existence of God we can then understand what He tells humanity through His Word, the Christian Bible.

Genesis 1:1 [New King James] “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*”

Before the existence of the universe God existed, He is eternal.

Revelation 1:8 [New King James] “*‘I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,’ says the Lord, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.’*”

Refers to Jesus Christ, who is God, [**John 1:1-3, 14**] has **no** beginning **nor** end.

Genesis 1:2 [New King James] “*The earth became [a correct translation of the Hebrew “hâyâh” meaning became or come to pass] without form and void...*”

This is **not** how God originally created the earth but the result of a conflict between the Creator God and a powerful spirit being He had created who rebelled against Him, [see **Isaiah 14:12-15** and **Ezekiel 28:12-19**].

This evil, rebellious spirit being was cast out of heaven and is still influencing the earth that God had given him to rule over.

God then renewed the face of the earth [**Psalms 104:30**] as described in the first chapter of Genesis.

Only then did God put into action His original desire.

Genesis 1:26-27 [New King James] “*Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the*

cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

The creation of human beings in the “*image*” Hebrew “*tselem*” meaning resemblance, shadow or outward form and eventually “*likeness*” Hebrew “*demûwth*” meaning attributes, manner or character.

Only the image was created, and every human being has this image of the Creator God.

Every human being has been given a short period of existence to develop the “*likeness*,” that is character of the Creator God.

In His great wisdom God has allowed the rebellious spirit being now named Satan [**Revelation 12:7-9**] to remain on earth to influence human beings who are to seek to have the “*likeness*” that is the character of the Creator God. Why?

Just as a physical muscle needs something to resist if it is to be strengthened, like lifting weights, so spiritual character development needs something spiritual to resist.

1 Peter 5:6-9 [New King James] *“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”*

That spiritual influence is Satan [**James 4:7**].

Ephesians 6:10-13 [New King James] *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”*

The battle we are in is with spirit beings, Satan and his demons.

Ephesians 2:1-3 [Amplified Bible] *“And you He made alive, when you were dead, slain by your trespasses and sins, in which at one time you walked habitually. You were following the course and fashion of this world, were under the sway of the tendency of this present age, following the prince of the power of the air. You were obedient to him and were under his control, [1 John 5:19], the demon spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience, the careless, the rebellious and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God. Among these we as well as you once lived and conducted ourselves in the passions of our flesh, our behaviour governed by our corrupt and sensual nature, obeying the impulses of the flesh and the thoughts of the mind, our cravings dictated by our senses and our dark imaginings. We were then by nature children of God’s wrath and heirs of His indignation, like the rest of mankind.”*

Note that Satan is described as “prince of the power of the air,” this is more true in this generation than ever before, as he uses television and the worldly internet abounding in violence and pornography.

Now we can see how careful we must be when using these two powerful educational influences.

We should step back and see the very broad influence that these two powerful media have on our lives and that of our family.

The content of television programming and what is available on the “*worldly*” internet is important.

But we ought to ask a prior question.

What are the effects of simply watching television?

What should first concern us is **not** what we watch but **that** we watch.

What are we not doing for the three or more hours a day while we are watching television or on the internet?

What is being replaced and what are the effects of the substitution.

The most important kind of activity that television and the internet tends to replace is interaction among family and friends.

Parents find it easier to let television or the internet tranquilise the children than to deal with squabbles between them or to devote time directing them.

Spouses can let television or internet substitute for communication.

While the evening's programmes are on, the pressure to talk is off.

Friends and relatives visit each other less, and if the television is left on when they visit, they converse less.

Two other trends in family life in modern society

Family life has been weakened by shrinkage of extended family structures and the decline of natural community activities in small towns, city neighbourhoods and churches.

Modern society increasingly leaves the family to deal with the stresses of family life on its own.

At the same time, the home has been divested of many of its older functions.

Family involvement in agriculture-based society where all the generations worked beside each other.

The family connections in craft and commerce have been cut.

The family's role in education, treatment of the sick and care for the elderly has been reduced.

Home is less the centre of activities than it was a few generations ago.

As a result, home and family is a less interesting place to be.

To these trends, television and the internet contributes its part.

It helps to erode traditional extended family and community ties, and it tends to displace domestic activities further.

These results are especially harmful to children, because children develop through their interaction with adults and the world about them.

Anything that interferes as extensively as television and the internet with family interaction is an obstacle to children maturing into adults as the Creator God desires.

Turning on the television or the internet can turn off the process that transforms children into responsible adults.

Family talk, games and festivals, even arguments, resolved by parents, are learning times for children through which their character is formed.

Proverbs 22:6 [New King James] *“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

Christian parents should be particularly concerned about television and internet’s interposition between parents and children, for we are responsible for the training of our children in the knowledge of the Creator God, in developing His character and in obedience to His laws as expounded in His Word, the Christian Bible.

While children are watching television or on the internet they are **not** receiving training from their parents.

Our children are **not** gaining experience in obeying their parents, and through such obedience their Heavenly Father; relating to their peers, serving other people or anything else.

Parents who, consciously or unconsciously, use the television or the internet to withdraw from active child rearing will suffer the consequences.

Proverbs 29:15 [New King James] *“The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.”*

Left in front of television or on the internet in modern society.

Children who are **not** disciplined properly grow more wilful and harder to handle every passing year.

What are we and our children imitating?

When we consider the effects of the content of television or the internet we find accumulated evidence that an increase in violent behaviour is the short and long term effect of seeing a lot of violence on television.

Beneath television characters’ actions and attitudes are underlying assumptions about life, that is without Christian guidelines that are found in God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

The media world of fact and fiction considers right and wrong in humanistic terms, never in terms of God’s authority.

The media defines **freedom** in material and political terms, rather than as liberty from the dominion of sin and evil.

The media insists on knowing only the natural world and on ignoring the supernatural spirit world.

The media considers faith in a God is simply aspects of some people’s religion, rather than fundamental dynamics of human life.

On television, truth is absolute only for those who think it so.

But belief in human progress, based on the theory of evolution, individualism and democratic political methods are considered absolutes.

The world of television is a world in which Christians are either dim-witted, dishonest or dangerous, making Christianity something you do **not** want to be linked to.

In point of fact, television rarely portrays true Christianity at all, merely its own wildly erroneous stereotypes, alas seeing is believing.

Is this clash between television's world view and the Christian mind important?

Are Christians affected by the media's perspective, or do they discount it?

Compared with the real world, a disproportionate percentage of characters in television programmes are professionals, athletes, entertainers, and law enforcement people, and that television characters have a greater chance of encountering personal violence than do people in real life.

The real issue is control of viewing

It is difficult to write about the dangers of television and the internet without sounding "*old fashioned.*"

The real issue is one of control, controlled the medium can serve us, uncontrolled it certainly harms us.

Too many Christians exercise only the vaguest control over television and the internet.

Christian leaders ought to help Christians control television, help in choosing the programmes they watch and invest their time in.

Christians need to cultivate judgement on what to make of the view of reality presented on television and the internet.

A Christian family whose life is based on God's Word, the Christian Bible, needs to put most of television and the internet back in their cages and develop other aspects of family life.

For there are very few television programmes that are based on Christian values and a very limited few websites like the one you are now on, that are based on the Truth as found in God's Word, the Christian Bible.

Bible vs. TV

On the table side by side,
The Holy Bible and the TV guide
One is well worn but cherished with pride
(Not The Bible, but the TV guide.)
One is used daily to help folks decide.
NO! It isn't The Bible, it's the TV guide.
As pages are turned, what shall they see?
Oh, what does it matter, turn on the TV.
Then confusion reigns, they can't all agree
On what they shall watch on the old TV.
So they open the book in which they confide
(NO! Not The Bible, it's the TV guide.)
The Word of God is seldom read,
Maybe a verse and they fall into bed
Exhausted, sleepy and tired as can be
Not from reading The Bible – from watching TV.
So, then back to the table side by side
Is the Holy Bible and the TV guide.
No time for prayer, no time for the Word.
God's plan of salvation is seldom heard.

Forgiveness of sin so full and free,
Is found in The Bible, not on TV.

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