

By What Are We Entertained?

by Bill Crews

The word “**entertain**,” as ordinarily and commonly used, means “to engage the attention of agreeably; amuse, divert.” In the same vein “**entertainment**” is “a performance intended to entertain, amuse, divert, etc.” Entertainment is not the noble little necessity we make it out to be. It is not half as paramount as our emphasis upon it would seem to indicate. Like bodily exercise, it may be profitable for a little, but let us not forget that godliness is profitable for all things (1 Timothy 4:7-8).

In and of itself entertainment may be right or wrong. That which is wrong should be abhorred and shunned by Christians, and that which is right should not be sought in excess, and that which is doubtful should be avoided (Romans 14:23). As Americans bathe themselves in prosperity, they become obsessed with entertainment, having both the time and the money for it. Their dollars are freely spent, their energies are poured out, and their time is devoted in the pursuit of entertainment. A disturbing part of the story is the fact that so many members of the Lord’s church give more time to being entertained than they give to prayer, Bible study, worship, and ministering to the lost and the needy; and they spend more money for entertainment than they lay by in store for the Lord on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:2). To make matters worse, not a few of the professed people of God heartily engage in forms of entertainment that are *incompatible* with God’s way of righteousness.

Any form of entertainment that is not in keeping with the principles of righteousness; that is doubtful; that conflicts with duties to God, family or employment; that would destroy one’s identity as a Christian; that would injure one’s physical body or impair one’s health; that would lead one into places of questionable environment; that would encourage one to cultivate evil companions; that would cultivate fleshly lusts; that would increase temptations to sin; that would mitigate against one’s seeking God’s kingdom and righteousness first and setting one’s mind on things above; that would cause a weak brother in Christ to stumble **IS WRONG AND SHOULD BE SHUNNED.**

Not only do people often go so entertainment wild and amusement crazy, but they cultivate such base desires that they are entertained by that which is sordid and obscene. That which should become disgusting, revolting, repulsive and shocking becomes “adult,” “mature,” “sophisticated,” a part of every-day, normal living and a sought-after theme for satisfying entertainment. We are often shocked when we read of the kind of entertainment which was pursued and popular among the citizens of the Roman empire, but so many boys and girls, men and women of today are entertained by things no less sordid. So many of today’s movies feature profanity, nudity, lust, fornication, adultery, rape, homosexual acts, incest, vulgarity, brutality, gore and violence, and these movies are advertised as “entertainment.” **One of the most revealing things about a person’s character is an examination of the things he considers entertaining.**

Reader friend, by what are you entertained? Where is your heart? Upon what have you set your affections? Please read Colossians 3:1-3:

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

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