

Download: Wk 1
Discover

Intro: Media Info ppt Game

With all the media we use and are exposed to, it's easy to be influenced by it. It's not like all media is bad, even some of the stuff that isn't labeled "Christian" is not necessarily bad, but how do we know what media is "good" for us or acceptable to God....? The best way to understand is to "think" about what we are listening to, watching, and/or playing. As we move on in this series I'm going to dig deeper into the "thinking aspect" and give you some filters, but tonight I want to begin to get you just to "think" about what you listen to, watch, and/or play.

Almost all of us, whether we want to admit it or not actually listen to and are impacted by the lyrics of the music we listen to and the images we submit ourselves too. This isn't to say that if you play call of duty that you're going to go out and kill people, but it may affect you in areas where, at some point, you wish it hadn't. Maybe it won't ever "bother you" to watch a movie where people are murdered on the screen. I mean after all death is a part of life, something that we all have to deal with. But one of the things we miss out on is that God hates sin, God hates murder. Jesus went so far to say that if you "hate your brother; you're already guilty of murder". Hate is a strong word, murder is really a form of idolatry because when you murder someone you are making yourself God and taking a life. But it's not real, right? So what's the big deal? Well it may not be a big deal, but it might be if you think about that you're paying to be entertained by people dying. Now I know that's extreme, especially from a video game. Please hear me I'm not here to tell you not to play call of duty or M-rated games, or even to tell you what to listen to, but what I want you to see is that we watch and listen to these things in almost a mindless way at times, without even thinking about it, while God calls us to do just the opposite, God calls us to use the minds He gives us for His glory. Listen to this one passage on how we are to live...

1Co 10:23 "Everything is permissible"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"—but not everything is constructive. *1Co 10:24 Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others...* *1Co 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

It says whatever you do; do for the glory of God. That includes your choices; your choices in how you act, attitude, the relationships you are involved in, and even the choices you make pertaining to media. The only way you are going to be able to do that is to think about what you are listening to, watching, and playing.

Especially with music, I hear a lot "well I don't listen to the lyrics, just the music". Maybe, but how many of you can quote your favorite line to your favorite song....? You see we either forget that God doesn't work the same way we do, we tend to create boxes in our lives. What I mean is this; there are certain movies that you watch with your friends that your parents would freak out about. There's certain music you'll listen to with a particular person, but if I was in the car you'd probably want to change the channel. We have our "Christian music" and our "secular music". Who created all music, God! It's just a matter of how the artist uses the gift he or she has been given.

Please hear me, what you listen to, what you watch, what you play, those choices are between you and God, and for some of you, you, God, and your parents. I'm not here to judge or to say, you shouldn't or should listen or watch certain things. There are definitely some guidelines that scripture gives that we'll get into over the next few weeks, all I want for you tonight is to begin to think about what you are listening and watching. Because the deal is this, most of you have been told what to do and how to think the majority of your lives. As a child that's your parent's

job, but now a lot of you on the verge of becoming adults and even if you aren't about to graduate you are making adult decisions with what you listen to, watch, your friends, and beliefs. At some point in the near future, you won't be able to stand alone on what you've been taught, because it's only what you've been taught and not who you actually are. Remember it's your relationship with God that allows you a relationship with Christ, not your parents. It's your grade that determines your future, not your parents. And it's your choices that determine your course, not your parents. It only makes sense then you begin to think about what you listen to, what you watch, and what your walk with God is and/or could be.

For the rest of the teaching time tonight, I want to throw some things at you that I want you to think about and through. We're going to put the lyrics to parts of three songs, you tell me which one you think is "Christian" and which one is "secular". The second thing we are going to do before small group is watch a music video and I want you to listen to the lyrics and watch the video and then give me your spin on what you think the song could be about.

Music Video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v= JQiEs32SqQ>

Small Group Discussion Concepts:

1. Why do you think Jesus cares about the media you and I consume?
2. If I asked you to get rid of some of your media for a week or a month, which ones would you find it almost impossible to live without? Why?

For use with the Music Video

1. What's the main topic and theme?
2. What does it say about the way the world is? What does it say about the way the world ought to be?
3. What values and beliefs are seen as virtuous? What values and beliefs are portrayed negatively?
4. What does it say about how to treat others? Are people "used," objectified, or portrayed as a means to an end?