

Teen Topics

Media (Part 5)

In this study, let us take a close look at the television and movie industry and determine how we as believers should respond to their influences. Read the following made up sitcom episode recap and then answer the questions below.

Bob and Ben are eating at a restaurant. Bob teases Ben for being a virgin, and convinces him to hit on the waitress. The waitress and Ben go on a date, but she is portrayed in a negative light, seen as being a goofy, religious nut. Afterward, Ben tells Bob she is an “old fashioned, Jesus freak,” who refused to even hold his hand. Bob replied by saying the two virgins would be a “match made in heaven” (the audience laughs). Bob offers to give Ben \$100 if he can get Diana to sleep with him. Ben then becomes a “Mr. Charming,” flattering Diana on the next date. The episode ends showing a parked car with foggy windows, and the voice of Ben telling Diana that he thinks he is going to be \$100 richer. Diana answers with a confused “what?” (the audience laughs).

> What do you see in this episode that could influence our beliefs, desires, or how we portray ourselves? Immorality is seen as no big deal. Purity is viewed as outdated. Christians are portrayed as “freaks” who need to change and give into pressure if we want to be cool. In the end, Christians are seen as hypocrites.

> What does [Matthew 6:22-23](#) say about the impact of the things we watch? Our eyes are very important members of our body, what we see can impact everything about us.

> When determining what to watch for entertainment, what advice does [Ephesians 5:2-17](#) give? Those who practice sin, like we often see on television, await God’s judgment. Don’t allow yourself to embrace their philosophies, nor join in what they do.

Sadly, much of what is called “entertainment” today does not honor the Lord. For that reason, God wants us to be on guard, recognizing that the messages and viewpoints of what we watch can influence our thinking, and in turn, our actions. God cares about us enough to direct us away from such things. As a result, we need to be bold enough to avoid such things and find our enjoyment in things that please Him.