

Come On In...

By Kevin FitzPatrick

One of the most discouraging 'things' that I run into is the amount of time Christian people spend watching television. And when I say television, I mean cable and/or satellite and/or antenna based reception television. I don't mean simply having a television in your home (or according to recent surveys 4 televisions), but I mean having the ability to receive channels.

Now I know that you are thinking right now.. "Now hang on there Kevin. The Bible says nothing about watching television." True, the Bible says nothing about watching television. Just like the Bible says nothing about driving in cars or flying in airplanes. Those later functions I do a lot as I travel around the world on what seems like a monthly basis.

Now the point I want to make, is that the actual act of watching television is not the part I am concerned about, although many hours are wasted in front of this device. But I am thinking and referring to the programs that are on television. Now before I hear, "Now Kevin, we do not watch anything bad, so please leave me alone."

The Bible quotes that comes to my mind when I hear arguments like that are JEREMIAH 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? " And I THESSALONIANS 5:21-22 "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. "

As Christian people, especially parents, we are very careful as to who we have as guests into our home. With young children in the home, it is a natural inclination to protect them and to nurture them and bring them up as EPHESIANS 6:4 states "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Would we allow a good friend over to our home, if they were defrauding dressed? (When I say defrauding, I mean anything that will take your focus off my face and direct it any other part or parts of my body. Also see Jessica FitzPatrick's paper on [Modesty](#)) Or intoxicated or spewing foul language in front of our children. Of course not! We would 'chat' with them before our children were exposed to this encounter and tell them to leave. And yet we will allow them into our home through the television.

Think about the programs that you watch or allow your kids to watch. Think of the attitude of the characters have towards God or toward each other. We are to do everything to bring honour and glory to God. I CORINTHIANS 10:31 "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." Yet we will simply say, "Well it is not real, so it does not matter." Or "I can watch what ever I want, cause I have freedom in Christ!" I find when people start falling back to the freedom argument, that they really know what they are doing or watching is wrong or at the very least improper. But they are simply unwilling to do what Christ is asking them to do, LUKE 6:46 "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" What Christ is asking you to do, is live a holy and righteous life. One worthy of Jesus dying on the cross for.

Have you every thought about that. Saying to yourself that is what I am about to do bring honour to Christ or is what I am about to do be worthy of Christ's pain and suffering on the cross. Hmmm, for me that puts a huge spin on everything that I do.

Why is it so hard for us Christians, followers of Christ. Christ the creator of the universe, the one and only Son of the Most High God. Our Lord and Master and Saviour. Why is it so hard to live a life pleasing to Him. Why do we have such a hard time peeling off the things in our lives that have no benefit to Jesus. Could it be that we have not fully put Christ in the right place in our lives? Could it be that we don't want Christ to RULE our lives? If Jesus is Lord and King, that would make us His servants would it not? And as servants do we not carry out all that our King commands of us?

Yet when it comes to the 'things' that we like to do, we tell Christ to His face, No! I will not do what you say, cause really it is not that bad. Yet, GALATIANS 5:9 tells us "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." Why is it so hard to do? Why will we not give it up? Why will we not obey Christ's commands to us to live a pure life? Could it be because we like sin as the Bible tells us?

Why take the chance of damaging Christ's image? His reputation? Even when just flipping through the channels for now even the commercials are horrible.

My suggestion would be to simply track how much time you currently watch television. Chances are it is an amazing amount of time, something along average of 4 to 6 hours per weekday. We are always complaining there is simply not enough time in the day to get everything done. Well I just gave you the ability to get 20 hours back, just through Monday to Friday!

20 Hours! That is a part-time job! That is a lot of Bible reading. Enough to get you through the entire Bible in just 4 weeks, cover to cover! When is the last time you did that? Spending more time in prayer is another good suggestion. Volunteering at a local shelter or food bank. Talking with your spouse (that is what I truly enjoyed when we decided to give up television a few years back). It is amazing how God will use this time to bring you closer to your spouse and allows you to gain a deeper understanding of their needs, goals and weaknesses.

Just think now about all the money you will be saving. \$50 - \$120 per month (in Canada) is the average cable/satellite bill. Imagine what \$600 dollars could do for that missionary you were thinking about supporting, or the groceries that would buy for that family in your church who is having a hard time making ends meet due to a lost job or illness.

Imagine the witness you would have to your own family! The witnessing opportunities all around you as you explain to people that you don't have television anymore cause I belong to Jesus and He has called all who know Him to a higher standard and to live a pure and righteous life free of all the trappings of this world.

Imagine God blessing you even more, due to your obedience to Him.

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