

Door 10: Ungodly Entertainment

Doorways to keep guard and pray against.

God never says, “Thou shalt not have fun, nor shalt thou smile in all thy days.” Having a good time is not a sin, but we should pay attention to the principles God has laid out for godly living when we do engage in leisure activities. First and foremost is **Colossians 3:17**: **“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”** When we are relaxing and having fun or when we are seeking entertainment, we should always make sure these activities are pleasing God.

God also does not want us to be under the influence of unbelievers. We may associate with them, as Christ did when He sat at dinner with sinners and tax collectors, but we should not allow ourselves to be influenced by them. Paul writes, “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?” **2 Corinthians 6:14-15**. **Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?** For example, a man shouldn't go with his buddies for a round of golf if he should be spending time building his relationship with his wife or if their conversations are coarse or profane. We should be living for God in all things, and we should be able to have the strength to say “No!” when someone tries to take us away from that.

According to **Colossians 3:17** **And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**, we should also give thanks to God through Jesus Christ for the fun and entertainment He provides. Someone once pointed out that “recreation” means to “re-create” or “renew.” God allows us this time to be renewed and to grow in our faith. James tells us, “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows” **James 1:17** **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.** Fun and entertainment are gifts of God, given so that we might come closer to Him. We should remember this when we are planning our recreation and remember to thank God for such a good and perfect gift.

However, in our search for entertainment, enjoyment, and relaxation, we often unthinkingly accept the world's idea of fun. If we aren't careful, we can harm ourselves and our relationship with God.

Secular media and activities can be entertaining, educational, or uplifting. But we should carefully evaluate what we do for recreation and entertainment, and how these activities affect us.

A good guideline is to only engage in activities Jesus would approve. As John wrote: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. **(1 John 2:6)**

Much entertainment presents a false or incomplete picture of reality by leaving Christ out. Even if there are no negative references to Christianity, the picture of the world we expose ourselves to may ignore the most important element of truth—God. It is like reading a book about how to survive in the wilderness that does not mention food or water.

If you watch TV sitcoms, movies, or pornography, you may internalize a false picture of human relationships—a false picture that can harm your relationships. For example, if you watch movies with sex scenes, you may become upset because your spouse does not seem as romantic or sexy as the actors and actresses.

Most advertising has one purpose: to make you think you must buy something to be happy. Movies and TV shows often feature luxurious living and give the message that happiness comes from spending lots of money.

Don't "fool" yourself or allow yourself to be careless. Study the Bible. Keep your spiritual eyes open.

I will set before my eyes no vile thing. The deeds of faithless men I hate; they will not cling to me. **(Psalm 101:3)**

Do not put vile things before your eyes. Do not poison yourself.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. **(Philippians 4:8)**

We sometimes watch questionable movies or listen to questionable music, thinking that since "everybody" else is listening or watching, it must be okay. Or we think something is acceptable simply because it's not as bad as something else.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will. **(Romans 12:1-2)**

Personal Application: Evaluate what you do for entertainment.

Would Jesus enjoy what I enjoy? Yes/No

Would Jesus find the same jokes funny? Yes/No

Would Jesus read or watch the same things I do? Yes/No

Would Jesus listen to the same music? Yes/No

Would Jesus do the same things I do? Yes/No

What changes do you think God would like you to make in what you do or watch for entertainment?

What changes do you think God would like you to make in how much time you spend on entertainment?

God Bless.