

MEDIA AND CULTURE

What is your favorite movie? _____ What is your favorite song? _____

What is your favorite TV show? _____ Video game? _____

Who is your favorite person to follow on Twitter or Instagram? _____

1. TENSION - we are to be holy in a world of distraction and sin.

1 Peter 1:15- *but just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do.*

“Be holy” _____ “Unholy world”

- **Holy** - set apart, different, not like the rest
- **The World** - the culture around us; what they say, what they watch, what they honor, what they hate, what they read, what they think, media and arts, how they view their experiences.

3 options

1. Remove ourselves from the world
2. Become like the world
3. Be holy in the midst of the world

2 THE GOAL - To be like Jesus

- a. **Romans 12:1-2** (MSG): *So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out.”*
- b. **Conformed** - to act in accordance with, comply
- c. **Transformed** - to change in condition, nature, or character.
- d. **Our Action** - sacrifice ourselves before God, our lives, our media, our wants, our motives
- e. **Our Goal** - to be like Jesus
- f. **Where does this happen?** - The renewing of our minds
- g. **The result?** - Jesus will stop at nothing and relentlessly pursue your holiness.

Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis: *“People often think of Christian morality as a kind of bargain in which God says, ‘If you keep a lot of rules I’ll reward you, and if you don’t I’ll do the other thing.’ I do not think that is the best way of looking at it. I would much rather say that every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before. And taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, all your life long you are slowly turning this central thing either into a heavenly creature or into a hellish creature: either into a creature that is in harmony with God, and with other creatures, and with itself, or else into one that is in a state of war and hatred with God, and with its fellow-creatures, and with itself.”*

3. A BIBLICAL GRID

- h. Will this cause me to sin? (Matt. 5:29-30)
- i. Will this cause others to sin? (1 Cor. 8:9)
- j. What worldview does this preach? What is it saying about God? About human dignity? About right and wrong? About life and death? About sin? About sexuality?
- k. Is it just empty?

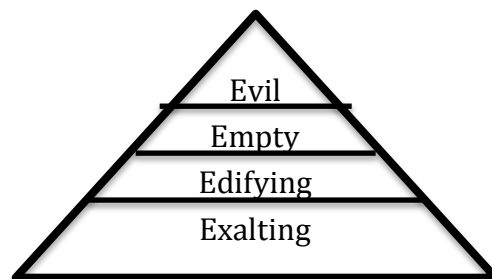


- By the way, there is incredible beauty and creativity in many forms of art. The point is not that all media and art is 'of the devil', but that we have to think about what it is that we are consuming.

4. WE BECOME WHAT WE BEHOLD

Psalm 115:1-8- *Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.*

What are you beholding? Do you think about it?



How much noise is in your life?

5. PRACTICALS

- a. Spend time with Jesus, in the Word, in prayer (Phil. 4:8-9)
- b. Filter and accountability
 - i. Filter and think about what media you're using
 - ii. Get help and accountability with it
- c. Choose!
 - iii. What is your plan with you phone?
 - iv. What criteria will you use to think through your media use?
 - v. How will you fill your mind with Jesus?
- d. Time-out: Take a media fast every once in a while
- e. Big Question:
- f. Self-Eval: How would you say you've been doing? Are there any adjustments you need to make in your life? Think through all aspects: phone, social media, TV, video games, music, movies, books.