

Real Love- The Call to Purity

Proverbs 4:23-27

What are the last 3 tv shows that you watched?

What are the last 3 songs/albums that you listened to?

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

- 1 Timothy 4:4-5
- We live in a fallen world and sometimes good things God created can be used in sinful ways.

- How often do you ask yourself whether what you're consuming is a good thing that blesses God or something that is hindering my relationship with Him?
- Is this drawing me closer to Him or causing me to stumble and fall?

1. Above all things, guard your heart

- The entertainment we consume has an effect on us!
- Entertainment can alter our mood, views, habits, language, thoughts, feelings/emotions, etc.

As Christians have to be as wise as serpents and innocent as doves. (Matthew 10:16)

1. Above all things, guard your heart

- We must diligently guard our hearts!
- The heart is the center of a person's thoughts (mind), emotions, and knowledge of right from wrong. The innermost part of a person, the place of wisdom and truth.
- The heart is the true person. It's who you are deep within. It shows your character, how you act, how you respond to things, how you make decisions and so on.

Proverbs 4:23-27

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. 25 Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. 26 Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. 27 Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.

“Think of your heart as a storage container or a hard drive to store information. Be careful what you let on the hard drive.” - Jonathan Pokluda

“We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ” 2 Corinthians 10:5

- What's inside of your heart? Who has the keys to it?
- Does our heart truly love Jesus? Do the things we entertain ourselves show and prove that we love Jesus?
- Is my heart more concerned with obeying and following Jesus' commandments?

- Who are you when nobody is watching?
- What kind of choices are you making when you have nobody to answer to?
- Are you reaching for a binge worthy Netflix show?
- Are you listening to an album produced by an artist that glorifies a sinful lifestyle?
- Are you going to that adult website and browsing through videos?
- Are you texting someone explicit messages so that you don't feel lonely?

- If we're consuming more of what the world has to offer than that of Jesus then we shouldn't be surprised when our heart aligns more with the world.
- Do you care if your heart aligns with the things of God?

2. Be Cautious of what you consume

- Proverbs 4 tells us to:
 - Watch our speech
 - Keep our eyes straight ahead
 - Walk on the right path
 - Don't turn away from the direction of God to go towards evil.
- This is how we protect our heart.
- We don't allow evil to get near us and within us by protecting:
 - Where we go
 - Who we're with
 - What our eyes and ears take in.

How do we protect ourselves?

- Check the labels of what we're consuming? What does it entail? (Rated Mature, Nudity, Explicit Content, Cussing)
- As a follower of Jesus, are you okay with taking this in for the next few hours?
- Would Jesus consume the entertainment that we are taking in?

Application:

- Replace your unhealthy habits that lead you away from God with something better. (you have to realize if you indulge in something of this world it is going to affect you in some way.)
- Genuinely ask yourself if you care whether your heart aligns with God's desires. If the answer is no, figure out why.
- Consider setting timers on your phone to limit your time on social media daily. You can see how much time you're spending in the bible app vs. social media apps. This may seem legalistic but it could be an avenue.
- Consider fasting from what is draining your time. For a day, week, or month. Delete it off your phone, unplug the tv.
- Set an entertainment standard for yourself. Spend time praying and asking God what He says about your choices for entertainment.

