

Of Babies and Bathwater

Philippians 4:8-9

God gives us guidance about the kinds of things that are worth thinking about and putting into practice in Philippians 4:8-9.

1. Accept and reflect on the things that can be described as... (Philippians 4:8)

a. True

b. Noble

c. Right

d. Pure

e. Lovely

f. Admirable

g. Excellent

h. Praise-worthy

2. In your discernment, follow the... (Philippians 4:9)

a. Patterns of good leaders like Paul and ultimately Christ.

b. Word of God.

For life Group Discussion

1. Read Acts 17:16-34 and answer the following questions:
 - a. Did Paul turn away from the Athenians objects of worship or carefully examine them? For what purpose?
 - b. Paul quoted two non-Christian writers. How do you suppose he knew what they had to say? For what purpose did he evidently quote them?
 - c. Did Paul affirm anything going on in Athens?
 - d. Did Paul critique anything going on in Athens? If so, how?
 - e. Did Paul appeal to things we can learn about God from nature and human nature?
 - f. Do you see any direct quotations of Scripture in Paul's message to these people who did not believe in God's Word? Are there Biblical ideas there? Where?
 - g. What special revelation does Paul build towards by the end of this message? Does Paul offer evidence for his most controversial claim? What are the crowd's responses?
2. Were you taught to avoid all worldly entertainment? What was good about that approach? What was lacking in that approach?
3. Were you taught that the only people who reject worldly entertainment are stuffy, judgmental, holier-than-thou old fogies who might be hypocrites anyway? Did this lead you to participate in things that brought negative consequences to your life?
4. Do you believe people today spend too much time on entertainment? Why or why not? If so, what sorts of things would be a better use of our time?
5. Do you feel you spend too much time on your smartphones and not enough time on something else?