

American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org

Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts

February 2010

God blesses those who honor Him with their eyes.



What you place before your eyes does impact! That's what the Bible says. (Psalm 101:3a)

We watch a TV advertisement depicting a juicy hamburger and it can and does impact our desire for a hamburger.

Why else do major corporations spend millions of dollars on 30 second spot ads if they don't expect that it will impact buying patterns? The answer is clear.

Years ago someone wrote the little children's song with the words: "*Be careful little eyes what you see. Be careful little eyes what you see. For the Father up above is looking down in love so be careful little eyes what you see.*"

This song, though simple,

is also profound; a good reminder for people of all ages.

May this bulletin insert also serve as a reminder to each of us to guard our hearts.

As Christians, how can we say that we love Jesus and at the same time watch lewd and crude programming portraying images and themes that go directly against our Savior and Lord?

Parents: It begins with us. Are you watching things which are displeasing to God?

Our God is a loving God full of grace and mercy, but He is also Holy.

Children smell hypocrisy. Go to church on Sunday and worship a Holy God and then watch movies and television programs that foster inappropriate lifestyles, illicit relationships, indecency and pornography?

Our children and grandchildren are precious to us.

Which of us desires our children to engage in fornication (premarital sex) or want them to dress provocatively and immodestly?

Do you want your children to suffer through years of having to live with the consequences stemming from allowing seeds of wickedness to be implanted in their eyes, ears, minds and spirits?

Shame on us if we become complacent to strongholds of sin in our lives.

These are serious days. It is increasingly difficult to shepherd children through the pollution of this age. One thing is clear. We need to be in His Word asking God to strengthen our love for Him and to give us a desire to obey Him more and more as we seek to glorify the Lord in all that we do and say - and watch.

As a family read Philippians 4:8 and discuss how this applies to your entertainment choices.

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What true practical holiness is - by J.C. Ryle



“... let me try to show what true practical holiness is -- what sort of persons are those whom God calls holy. ...

“Holiness is the habit of being of one mind with God, according as we find His mind described in Scripture. It is the habit of agreeing in God’s judgement -- hating what He hates, loving what He loves - and measuring everything in this world by the standard of His Word. He who most entirely agrees with God, he is the most holy man.

“A holy man will endeavor to shun every known sin, and to keep every known commandment. He will have a decided bent of mind toward God, a hearty desire to do His will, a greater fear of displeasing Him than of displeasing the world, and a love to all His ways. He will feel what Paul felt when he said, ‘I delight in the law of God after the inward man’ (Rom. 7:22), and what David felt when he said,

‘I esteem all Thy precepts concerning all things to be right, and I hate every false way’ (Psalm 119:128). ...

“Last, but not least, a holy man will follow after spiritual mindedness. He will endeavor to set his affections entirely on things above, and to hold things on earth with a very loose hand. He will not neglect the business of the life that now is; but the first place in his mind and thoughts will be given to the life to come. He will aim to live like one whose treasure is in heaven, and to pass through this world like a stranger and pilgrim travelling to his home. To commune with God in prayer, in the Bible, and in the assembly of His people -- these things will be the holy man’s chiefest enjoyments. He will value every thing and place and company, just in proportion as it draws him nearer to God. He will enter into something of David’s feeling, when he says, ‘My soul followeth hard after Thee’; ‘Thou art my portion.’ (Pss. 63:8; 119:57)

“... I do not say for a moment that holiness shuts out the presence of indwelling sin. No: far from it. It is the greatest misery of a holy man that he

carries about with him a ‘body of death’; that often when he would do good, ‘evil is present with him’; that the old is clogging all his movements, and, as it were, trying to draw him back at every step he takes (Rom. 7:21). But it is the excellence of a holy man that he is not at peace with indwelling sin, as others are. He hates it, mourns over it, and longs to be free from its company. The work of sanctification within him is like the wall of Jerusalem -- the building goes forward ‘even in troublous times’ (Dan. 9:25). ...

“And this I do boldly and confidently say, that true holiness is a great reality. It is something in a man that can be seen, and known, and marked, and felt by all around him. It is light: if it exists, it will show itself. It is salt: if it exists, its savour will be perceived. It is a precious ointment: if it exists, its presence cannot be hid. ...”

For Ryle’s complete list of the qualities marking a person desiring to be holy - see **“Holiness” written by Dr. J.C. Ryle.** For further information contact ADA at 888-733-2326 or email info@americandecency.org

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