

Oaks-West Church of Christ

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February 9, 2020

Ten Questions About Our Entertainment Choices

by Ken Weliever

“Highly sexualized.” “Trashy.” “Sexual exploitation.” “Soft-core porn.” “A horrible embarrassment.”

These are just a few of the descriptions I read on social media regarding the Super Bowl halftime show featuring Latin pop artists Shakira and Jennifer Lopez.

I didn't realize how raunchy the performance was until the next morning when I read so many accounts of people disgusted by the skimpy costumes, seductive gyrating and sexy choreography.

We were watching the game at a friend's house and I went to the kitchen for some food and spent the time talking with a couple of friends during the entire time until the second half began. Obviously, it's a good thing I didn't see it.

While I appreciate people raising righteous objections to the half-time show, the challenges we face with our entertainment choices are ongoing. Not just once a year during the Super Bowl. In fact, if the truth was known, many professed Christians are watching movies and TV shows much worse than the Shakira and J. Lo show.

If we're to be guided by Scripture, and we've been given “everything that pertains to life and godliness” (2 Pet. 1:3), there are some Biblical principles that will help us in our entertainment choices.

To begin with, consider these five passages.

“I will set nothing wicked before my eyes” (Ps 101:3).

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“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things.” (Phil 4:8)

“I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl” (Job 31:1).

Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, And revive me in Your way.” (Ps 119:37)

“But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matt 5:28).

Here are 10 questions to consider when we turn on the TV, go to a movie, attend a concert, or watch a play.

1. Is what I’m watching lewd and lascivious and appeals to my sinful fleshy desires?

2. Am I looking at a person created in God’s image with pure and honorable intentions?

3. Does this entertainment distract from my pursuit of holiness, righteousness, and godliness?

4. Does this show produce ennobling thoughts or pollute my mind with cheap and tawdry thoughts?

5. Is the allurements of this show vulgar or virtuous?

6. Am I morally stronger from this entertainment, or spiritually weakened?

7. Are the values being presented consistent with my Christian values?

8. Am I allowing myself to be amused by something that is sinful?

9. Would I feel comfortable having Jesus sit with me during this show?

10. When I finish watching do I feel good about myself or do I feel sleazy?

J. Oswald Sanders was right when he wrote, “The mind is the battleground upon which every moral and spiritual battle is fought.” However, it’s possible to deceive ourselves and allow ungodly influences to corrupt our minds, exploit our feelings, and defile our hearts.

As our secular culture continues to slouch toward Sodom, Christians must be alert to Satan’s schemes to soil our souls with sensuous entertainment.

The Christian’s calling and our challenge have not changed from the first century: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind” (Rom 12:2).

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Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.



Upcoming Ladies' Bible Classes - February 11 at Dyanne Turner's home.

Song Practice - February 16, 5:00 p.m.

Gospel Meeting - February 13-16 with David Bonnor at Benchley church of Christ.

Our upcoming Gospel Meeting - March 1-4 with Rickie Jenkins

Gospel Meeting - March 7-10 with Kevin O'Banion at Northwest church of Christ in Austin.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.



Please remember the following individuals in your daily prayers:

June Owens
Jack Wilson
Jerry Richardson
Karen Hallmark
Rich Force
Ron & Sue Stanberry
Silvia Stinnett & her family
Autumn Felps

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

We have many that face challenges on a daily basis and need your prayers as well.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

