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SESSION 5 | Worldliness and Media II

I. Introduction

- **Why it matters:** Media is an everywhere, assumed, powerful, often passively received, proclamation of worldview.
- **Principles, Practices, and Discernment**
 - Eph. 5:10: “And try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.”
 - It is important to distinguish between biblical principles and the practical application of those principles.
 - We need *biblical* discernment
- **Purpose, Content, Effect**

II. Media and Worldview

- Often media affects us not so much by what it overtly displays or says, but by what it assumes.

III. Media and Sexuality

- **Scripture holds a high view of sexuality**
 - Gift given prior to the fall
 - Gift celebrated throughout scripture
 - Heb. 13:4 – “Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled.”
- **Scripture is frequent and vehement in its warnings about sexual sin and temptation**
 - Gen. 35:22 “While Israel lived in that land, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father’s concubine. And Israel heard of it.”
 - 2 Sam. 11 – David and Bathsheba
 - Proverbs – “forbidden woman”
 - Acts 15:20, Rom. 1, 13:13, I Cor. 5, 6, 7, 10:8, Gal. 5:19, Eph. 5:3, Col 3:5, I Thess. 4:3, Rev. 2:19-23

- I Cor. 6:18-20 – “Flee sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

- **Sexual sin and temptation are not limited to overt acts**
 - Matthew 5:27-29 “You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away.”

- **Issues of sexuality and media are not limited to heterosexuality.**
 - Gen 19
 - Lev. 20
 - Rom. 1:24-27, I Cor. 6:9, I Tim. 1:10

- **Questions to evaluate content and fruit:**
 - Does this encourage a high view of sexual purity prior to marriage and of sexuality in marriage?
 - Singles (and parents, with your children): Regarding sexuality, are my media choices helping or hurting my pursuit of purity now and will they help or hurt my marriage?
 - Does this help me to take seriously biblical warnings about sexual sin?
 - Does this content sexually tempt me or those with whom I am watching?
 - Does my media consumption come closer to toeing the line or fleeing?
 - Can I give thanks to the Lord for this content? Can I imagine the Lord taking pleasure in it?
 - Even if there is no overt activity, are other elements helping or hurting me in the pursuit of sexual faithfulness (clothing, behavior, topics of conversation, themes, etc.)?
 - Am I loving the people involved in the making of this movie? Would I want someone watching me or hearing me say or do or wear or act this way?

IV. Media and Speech

- **Scripture holds a high view of speech**

- Psalm 19:14 – “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.”
- Prov. 25:11 - “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.”
- Eph. 4:29 – “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”
- **Scripture warns against misuse of speech**
 - Proverbs 10:19 – “Where words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.”
 - Matthew 12:36 – “I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak.”
 - James 3:1-12
- **“It’s just words” is worldly thinking.**
- **Types of words and why they matter**
 - Misuse of the Lord’s name – Exodus 20:7
 - Careless references to the judgment of God.
 - Crude speech – Eph. 3:4
 - Careless speech
 - Anger
 - Disrespect
- **Questions to evaluate content and fruit**
 - Does this encourage a high view of language?
 - Does this encourage me to take seriously what scripture takes seriously?
 - Is this helping me or hindering me in the proper use of speech?
 - Am I experiencing temptation to imitate the attitudes behind this language?
 - Can I imagine the Lord Jesus watching this?
 - Can I give thanks for this?

V. Media and Violence

- **Violence is an effect of the fall and is grievous**
 - Gen. 1:26-27
 - Gen. 9:6 – “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.”
- **Condoned and condemned violence**
 - Ex. 20:13 – “You shall not murder”

- 1 Sam. 15:33 – “And Samuel said, ‘As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.’ And Samuel hacked Agag to pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.”
- Matthew 5:21-22 – “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment.”
- 1 John 3:15 – “Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer.”
- Romans 13:4 “But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer.”
- **Questions to evaluate content and fruit**
 - Does this encourage a high view of the image of God and a serious view of violence?
 - Am I properly grieved by violence, or am I being desensitized?
 - Does this celebrate or make light of violence, in itself?
 - Does this reflect the Bible’s view on violence that is condoned and violence is condemned?
 - Does this help me to cultivate a tender, compassionate heart, or is it stirring anger, anxiety, violence in my heart?
 - Can I imagine the Lord Jesus watching this with me?
 - Can I give thanks to the Lord for this?

VI. Other factors to consider

- **Media and darkness**
- **Pride**
- **Media and the power of example**
- **Media, joy, and humor**
- **Media and the good life**
- **Media and materialism**

- Phil. 4:8 – “Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”
- Col. 3:1-4 – “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. “

VII. Practical Examples

- Invited to see Avengers 4
- When is violence permissible in a movie? Why? Consider a movie like *Hunger Games*. In terms of violence – why might one Christian choose to see it and another not?