

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Television

"If a man watches three football games in a row, he should be declared legally dead." - Erma Bombeck, on "Donahue," TV talk show, May 22, 1986.

"Television has changed the American child from an irresistible force to an immovable object." - Laurence J. Peter

"I hate television. I hate it as much as peanuts. But I can't stop eating peanuts." - Orson Welles

According to the A.C. Nielson Company, televisions are on in our homes everyday for an average of 6 hours and 47 minutes. Most Americans spend approximately 4 hours or more daily watching television. It is estimated that over a life span of 65 years that an American citizen will spend 9 years of their life glued to the television set.

These quotes and statistics are certainly a reminder of how much television affects our lives. If we were honest we might well say that Americans are addicted to television. No, you don't agree? Consider that Neilson also reveals that 99% of all homes in the U.S. have televisions, and in many homes more than one. And combined, Americans spend some 250 billion hours watching television.

What is striking in all of this is that TV viewership is continuing to increase. In fact, on one Reuter's blog it was noted, "We, as average Americans, watch an average of nearly 35 hours of TV each week. That's almost equal to a full-time job. Add to that this frightening tidbit: In the average home, there are more television sets than people."

The church has always had its difficulties combating outside influences. Often we are concerned about public education and what they might be imparting to our children. We've been concerned about books and what various authors have tried to teach. But it seems that it is all dwarfed by the powerful influence of Hollywood. Think about it, children spend more time being influenced by what they see in entertainment than in what Christian homes can impart. And in the church we seek to overcome such influences that are detrimental.

Television shows are teaching that homosexuality is alright. They are seeking to teach that a child before birth is expendable. Yes, all of the liberal agenda is being propagated by the television industry.

Discouraging the watching of television may not be the answer. After all, there are some programs that are educational, or enjoyable that does not seek to be vulgar or indecent.

As with other mediums, such as computers, we need to stress moderation and caution. To ignore their influence is to invite disaster.