

STRATEGY GROUP FOR REFORMATION in Entertainment

The Reformation FIRE Conference held in Franschoek, 30 October 2013, Strategy Group for Reformation in Entertainment produced the following notes:

1. What are some of the main problems confronting us in the entertainment industry today?

There is no anointing on many Christian artists. Many of them are only interested in entertaining others and drawing attention to themselves. The world mixes Christian messages into their entertainment in order to draw undiscerning Christians in. Unbiblical worldviews are being broadcasted publically and accessed with ease. Impurity is promoted. Many worldly entertainers have sold their souls, and influence their followers to do the same. Ungodly people have become a strong influence on children. There is a lot of evil imagery and occult symbolism that is portrayed in music videos and is fed to us through subliminal messaging.

2. What are some of the negative influences of Hollywood on our society today?

Sexual promiscuity has increased. The increase of suicide, depression and mental disorders has been influenced by Hollywood. Minds have been damaged and scared with evil imagery. Pornography has increased as a result of desensitisation to sexually explicit content. Hollywood is responsible for much of the development of ungodly morals.

3. What are the Scriptural guidelines for entertainment?

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.” Matthew 5:27-31

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:1-2

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

4. What can we do to clean the screen and redeem the media?

Teach other Christians the importance of a Biblical Worldview. Voice our opinions and concerns by writing to Editors, MPs, Directors, The Film and Publications Board etc. Reform and reclaim media with Christian movies, radio, magazines and social media.

5. What ministries are focused on redeeming the entertainment industry?

Nu-light productions, JOY! magazine, Movieguide.org.

6. What are examples of good entertainment options that we can support?

Christian movies such as: *Fireproof*, *Courageous*, *Flywheel*, etc. and JOY! magazine.

7. How many of you have seen films such as: *Faith Like Potatoes? Hansie? Tornado? Flywheel? Facing the Giants? Fireproof? Courageous?*

All.

8. How can we teach our families and our congregations to be more critical in their viewing and listening choices?

Examine and purify our motives for being entertained by a particular medium ***“Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God”*** Matthew 5:8. Teaching the Word of God. Present case studies of positive and negative movies, music etc. Teach people about underlying worldviews in the entertainment industry.

9. What can we do to counter the negative and promote the positive in the Entertainment industry?

Christian artists must make a stand for Christ. They must be uncompromising in their content and boldly honour God for entrusting them with gifts and talents. Actively support people who are involved in Christian alternatives to secular entertainment. We need to purchase and promote Christian media. Expose the evil in the entertainment industry through emails, social media, presentations and education.

10. The Moral Entertainment Pledge

Recognising the great influence of films and television programmes on our society and alarmed by the prevalence of explicit sex and violence in many of today's websites, films, DVDs, radio and television programmes, we call upon media executives and film makers to voluntarily comply with The Motion Picture Code as revised by The Christian Film and Television Commission (USA). We also join in the efforts of The Christian Film and Television Commission to encourage the film and television industry to be more sensitive to Christian family values and to promote a Biblical Worldview.

Also, we pledge:

- To reject films that promote degrading and debasing ideas that corrupt the moral fabric of society;
- To do all that we can to encourage public opinion against the portrayal of evil as the normal state of affairs, and against depicting criminals of any class as heroes, or presenting their philosophy of life as something acceptable to decent men and women;
- To make every attempt to refrain from all films except those which do not offend decency and Biblical morality.

In conclusion, we sign this pledge with the conviction that the majority of South Africans do not demand obscene movies, but clean entertainment.

As these are principles which every Christian surely supports, Christian Action encourages pastors to proclaim such standards to their congregations. We call upon SABC, M-Net, E-TV, Ster Kinekor, Nu-Metro and other media groups to honour these principles. We further call upon Christian editors to include regular reviews of available films from a Biblical perspective and encourage Christians to visit www.MovieGuide.org and “know before you go”. We need to redeem the media by supporting pro-life, pro-family, moral films and avoiding those that are degrading, distorting and deceptive.

“Finally, brothers, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.”

Philippians 4:8

THE MOTION PICTURE CODE

1. The basic dignity and value of life shall be respected and upheld. Restraint shall be exercised in portraying the taking of life.
2. Evil, sin, crime and wrong-doing shall not be justified.
3. Detailed and protracted acts of brutality, cruelty, physical violence, torture, and abuse, shall not be presented.
4. Indecent or undue exposure of the human body shall not be presented.
5. Illicit sex relationships shall not be justified. Intimate sex scenes violating common standards of decency shall not be portrayed. Restraint and care shall be exercised in presentations dealing with sex aberrations.
6. Obscene speech, gestures, or movements shall not be presented. Blasphemy and profanity shall not be presented.
7. Jesus Christ shall not be demeaned.
8. Words or symbols contemptuous of racial, religious, or national groups shall not be used so as to incite bigotry or hatred.
9. Cruelty to animals shall not be portrayed and animals shall not be treated inhumanely.

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