



Open House
Sunday June 27, 2010
MOVIES, MUSIC, MUGS

[*Note to pastors:*

Objective: We have observed that many at APC are not aware of Biblical standards and principle to apply concerning movies, music and drinking alcoholic beverages ("mugs"). Our objective through this open-house session is to recognize that a wide range of perspectives exist on these subjects and more importantly, to introduce Biblical Principles that folks can apply when making decisions concerning movies, music and mugs.

Since we have about 90 minutes to cover three interesting and debatable topics – we will not have too much time for open mic time where people can express their view. We have already conducted an interview of folks and hence we know the wide range of viewpoints. So we limit audience participation to minimum and spend more time in communicating Biblical standards. Please plan on spending about 15 minutes on each topic followed by about 10 minutes for questions at the end of each topic. Movies (15+10), Music (15+10), Mugs (15+10). Total expected duration: 75minutes]

MOVIES

General comments about movies

- Form of expression of the culture, real life stories
- Form of entertainment, education, inspiration, etc.

We watch movies both at home and in theatres.

Broad spectrum of movies

Christian inspirational – to – documentaries – to fun/family entertainment – to – obscene/violent

Take one comment: "Is there anyone who does not watch any kind of movies, either at home or in theatres?"

We assume that all of us watch movies – short or long – at home or in theatres.

We must recognize that what we see, hear, read and allow to enter into our mind – influences in some way our thinking, our perspectives – and has the potential to eventually shape our habits, decision making and consequently our life.

Movie stars become larger-than-life personalities who have a major influence on people who look up to them as "heroes". Their lifestyle, perspectives, etc., are readily imbibed and emulated by their admirers.

Young kids have tendencies to become violent after watching such kind of movies. In some cases, leads to violence against peers at school, etc.

Hence we must be judicious (careful) in the kind of movies we watch.

What then should be our "guiding principles" in choosing what kind of movies to watch?



Here are some Scriptures to consider:

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

19 Do not quench the Spirit.

20 Do not despise prophecies.

21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

22 Abstain from every form of evil.

Vs 22 Throw out anything tainted with evil. (Message Bible)

Some may say that movies depict real-life scenarios. However, we must be careful what those "real-life" scenarios are and whether we would benefit necessarily from watching them.

Ephesians 5:10-13

10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Open time for Questions & Answers

Expected questions:

1, can believers be involved in the entertainment industry

Yes, yet must maintain godly standards and bring godly influence, rather than being compromising. The motive for being in the entertainment industry is very important. Also believers must be strong in the Lord to stand against strong negative influences.

2, can adults watch x-rated/adult movies –after all adults know what it is all about

No. This still brings negative influence into our lives.

MUSIC

Music again is an expression of culture and has a major influence on our mind/moods/emotions and therefore on our decision making, choices, etc.

Here again we have a wider spectrum in the kinds of music that is available.

Christian worship – to – classical – general all about life kind of music – to music that is open expression of violence/satanic worship/ etc.

Music is a powerful medium and similar to movies, successful musicians become heroes and have almost a cult-like following from admirers.

Sociologists tell us that music is an expression that creates sub-cultures within society. Music functions as:

- a cultural voice for minorities (rebel songs, heroic songs, etc.)
- a resistance to accepted norms in prevailing culture.
- part of a total "sub-culture" system that includes sexual behaviour, speech patterns and dress codes.
- a platform for engagement and participation from those who embrace that sub-culture



How do we choose/determine what kind of music to listen to and what kind we must avoid?

Here are some guiding principles.

1, Recognize the spiritual and emotional aspects of music

Biblical examples

- David and Saul. David played on his harp and Saul was relieved from demonic spirits
- Elisha and a musician. While the musician played on his harp, the anointing of God came on Elisha.
- Music is used as part of our worship toward God.

2, Recognize that music was created by God but perverted by the devil – so there is music that originates from God and music that originates from the devil

Ezekiel 28:13

You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created.

3, When unsure –

- check the people behind the music, what do they stand for,
- check the lyrics
- check the dedications
- Check the way the music affects you – if it leaves you depressed, drawing you away from God, etc, then discard it.
- listen to the witness of the Spirit of God who leads us into all truth

Questions & Answers

MUGS

Discussing the drinking of alcoholic beverages wine, beer, etc. etc.

We realize that this is a very debated topic and even among believers there are people who have opposite views. There are entire books written on this subject where researchers have looked into the Hebrew and Greek words for wine and attempted to arrive at conclusions. And even among them we have different viewpoints.

So we'd like to share some of our perspectives as a local church:

1, We believe that the Bible clearly warns against the influence of alcoholic beverages and getting drunk

Leviticus 10:9-11 and Ezekiel 44:21 - God commanded priests not to drink so that they could tell the difference between the holy and the unholy.

Proverbs 20:1 - Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

Proverbs 23:19-21 - A wise person will not be among the drinkers of alcoholic beverages. Drunkenness causes poverty.



Proverbs 23:29-34 - Drinking causes woe, sorrow, fighting, babbling, wounds without cause and red eyes. God instructs not to look at intoxicating drinks. Alcoholic drinks bite like a serpent, sting like an adder. Alcohol causes the drinker to have strange and adulterous thoughts, produces willfulness, and prevents reformation. Alcohol makes the drinker unstable.

Proverb 31:4-5 - Kings, Princes, and others who rule and judge must not drink alcohol. Alcohol perverts good judgment.

Romans 13:13 - Do not walk in drunkenness or immorality.

1 Corinthians 5:11 - If a Christian brother is a drinker, do not associate with him.

1 Corinthians 6:10 - Drunkards will not inherit the kingdom of God

Galatians 5:21 - Acts of the sinful nature, such as drunkenness, will prohibit a person from inheriting the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 5:18 - In contrast to being drunk with wine, the believer is to be filled with the Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:6-7 - Christians are to be alert and self-controlled, belonging to the day.

Drunkards belong to the night and darkness.

2, While we recognize that believers could debate on issues as "social drinking", "drinking responsibly", etc., as a ministry team our stand is total abstinence, for the following reasons:

A, Where do you draw the line, a little can lead to a little-more which can lead to a whole lot more...and there is no end.

B, While all things may be lawful we consider what is profitable and liberating

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

C, Its affects on the physical body:

Alcohol has very specific effects on the body. Here are some of the effects that alcohol has:

- **Dehydration.** Most people don't realize that alcohol actually pulls water from the body and the brain. In fact, it is actually dehydration of the brain that causes the typical hangover.
- **Dulled senses.** If you drink your five senses just don't work the way they would when you are sober.
- **Decreased reaction time.** One of the reasons alcohol use is a major cause of fatal accidents is because people cannot react as quickly when they are under the influence. If you drink you will not be able to think as quickly in questionable situations.
- **Impaired judgement.** One of the first things to go when you drink is your judgement. Your inhibitions decrease and you are more likely to make poor decisions.
- **Impaired memory.** When under the influence your memory is not very good, yet long-term use causes even further memory damage.
- **Weight gain.** If you are one of those Christian teens concerned about your weight, then drinking alcohol should be avoided. Alcohol is pure sugar and slows down the metabolism. It also causes hunger as the sugar is digested, so you may end up eating foods that cause even further weight gain.

1 Corinthians 6:19,20

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.



While we do not judge others who have differing views, as a local church we require “total abstinence” of anyone who is leadership and part of APC’s Ministry Team (Pastors, Staff, Ministry Leaders, Life-Group Leaders, Mentors).

In matters of food, drink and customs:
Romans 14:5.... Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.

While you are free to make your own choice on this matter based on what you see in Scripture, we invite you to follow our example of total abstinence.

Questions & Answers

Expected questions:

While we do not have definite answers to these questions, we have purposed in our hearts like Daniel to take the path of total abstinence from all alcoholic beverages.

1, Jesus turned water to wine, was also known as a wine bibber, and instituted the new covenant with bread and wine.

Wine could mean (a)unfermented grape juice or (b)alcoholic drink. Looking at the Greek words used, the wine would have had some alcoholic content or had the potential to make one drunk. Yet how much and how long it was fermented – is still unknown and hence must not be used as a basis to condone any form of drinking alcohol.

2, Paul told Timothy to have some wine for his stomach.
Better cures for stomach conditions are available today.

3, Only drunkenness is condemned – so moderate drinking should be ok?
Self control is very subjective and so also drinking in moderation. Hence it would be advisable to stay away from any amount of alcoholic beverage.

4, Debatable Scriptures

A, Proverbs 23:35 - Alcohol makes the drinker insensitive to pain so he does not perceive it as a warning. Alcohol is habit forming.

B, Proverbs 31:6-7 - Strong drink could be given to those about to perish or those in pain. Better anesthetics are available today.

C, for spiritual leaders and deacons – not being fond of wine of “given to much” wine – implying that little is ok.

1Ti 3:3 not given to (i.e. fond of) wine,

1Ti 3:8 Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine,

Tit 1:7 For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,

Tit 2:3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine,

Little wine for medicinal purposes, etc., was accepted in those days. We have better options today. Response same as 3, above.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>