

General Topics :: Is this Pharisaical...abstaining from certain movies and music?**Is this Pharisaical...abstaining from certain movies and music?, on: 2007/10/6 16:22**

I read an article on another blog, it was about certain Christians that don't go to movies and listen to popular music are Pharisees.

We have some friends in our Sunday school that couldn't believe that we didn't see a movie called, "Knocked up and 40 year old Virgin." We never said anything about them going watching those movies and we never stated why we choose not to.

I really make an effort not to watch certain movies, especially if they could cause me to stumble. I never was like this before, I would go and see any movie that came and not think about it, but the past year I felt I should abstain from certain movies that are not edifying.

Now would this be a Pharisee? Should we make a disciplined effort to not watch certain movies?

Re: Is this Pharisaical...abstaining from certain movies and music? - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/10/6 16:30

Don't watch.... such movies defile a man. People who want to see such movies really need to check on their relationship with God. Who can know God and go watch such abominations as some movies are? How can we go from the Holy presence of God to the filthy movie house and not be bothered?

Tease movies are blasphemy, and even movies labeled "Christian". There are good movies worth watching and edifying, we need discernment.

Re: Is this Pharisaical...abstaining from certain movies and music? - posted by chaplaintony, on: 2007/10/6 17:15

check out www.hollywoodandgod.com

Re:, on: 2007/10/6 18:38

This made me think of a recent article by Harold Vaughn on being a Pharisee:

(https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id19909&forum34&3) You Might Be a Pharisee If...

I highly recommend that article; it is very good.

And this verse came to mind:

James 1:27

*Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to **keep himself unspotted from the world.***

And these verses were in the context of Jesus addressing the Pharisees and their hypocrisy:

15 There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, these are they that defile the man.

16 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

17 And when he was entered into the house from the people, his disciples asked him concerning the parable.

18 And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him;

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19Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats?

20And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.

21For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

22Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

23All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

Mark 7:15-23

We have to go to the Scriptures and let them be our standard. Firstly, to examine what Jesus told the Pharisees and the warnings He gave them, and secondly what is the standard in God's Word for godly living?

Those are a few things to consider...

~Joy :-)

Re:, on: 2007/10/6 19:42

Quote:
-----And this verse came to mind:
James 1:27
Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Why don't many Christians do this? Because so many like the world too much?

Ray Comfort has a great video about Hollywood movies. I will find it or if someone knows what am I referring too. He interviews some christians and asks them about taking the Lords name in vain. Its quite good.

Re: Is this Pharisaical...abstaining from certain movies and music? - posted by Isaiah64, on: 2007/10/6 21:14

Brother, there's nothing pharisaical about separating yourself *from* the filth of the world and *unto* the joy of Almighty God. That's called "holiness," and it's the fruit of a regenerate, Spirit-filled life.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Philippians 4:8

"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that fall away; it shall not cling to me."
Psalm 101:3

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."
James 4:4

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."
1 John 2:15-16

Another very impacting verse is found in Romans 1:32:

"Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

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In Romans 1 Paul sets out to condemn the entire human race, describing in detail the wickedness and perversions of man. Now we get to the last verse, where Paul describes those who are not only wicked themselves, but take pleasure in (another translation says "approve of") those who do these things.

Now think about it--you may not be a murderer, or rapist, or practice fornication or homosexuality, but when you entertain yourself by watching these shameful acts on television or movies you are taking pleasure in (and in effect approving of) them--the very things for which Jesus had to die.

I would have some serious concerns about anyone who can pray, praise, and worship the Lord on Sunday and another day laugh about the very things that God hates.

But...sigh...ain't that a normal characteristic of "Christianity" today.

Let's continue to pray for a genuine move of God...

Hope this helped, God bless.

...Oh yea, and a very powerful, life-changing sermon that deals with this subject is (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid14249&commentViewitemComments>) (The Glory of God) in Moral Purity by Paul Washer. I would definitely recommend it.

Re: - posted by awakenwithin (), on: 2007/10/6 23:54

I fully agree,,

I finding that there is no shame in our sins?

Is there no weeping over what God hates?

It so we wouldn't even think about seeing 95% of movie we do. My heart is weak with tears of how many sister and brother love these wicked movies. I say WICKED, because sin is sin. Can we make little of Sin Because we enjoy it? Sin Is Sin? Yes a little will make its ways through the whole thing...And sin all the way around is wicked? We have been fooled to enjoy what the Satan had given for the world. We are not of the world. I think it is more than time. It is our hearts, for Christ. Our sin that we have made little of. We have been made blind and asleep. When we start to see the great wickedness of sin, how then can we enjoy seeing it? There is a thing called holiness which many say they want, but few are willing to really die for it. Is there not pride in our hearts when we want our way, more than God's way? Do we love the world's movies? We are very proud people. Who want to throw our movies away? I say are we not to hate what God hates, How then can God love what dishonors him? How can God love sin? But again who wants to be holy? Why would we want to have such evil in our homes? This about the Holy God and his Holiness and he say Be holy for I am holy.

God said he took us out of the world, not to be part of it. Many are in sin by the movies they see weekly. Is it right to see a sister and brother seeing such things and say nothing?

I think we are to holy fighter for Holiness throwing away without thought the things God hates. Fleeing from all evil.. are we not?

I think hardest things is taking these things of holiness and applying them to our lives?

in his love
charlene

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2007/10/7 2:38

In AD 70 when the Temple was destroyed the Pharisees fled to Yavneh (Jamnia) and started what we know today as Rabbinic Judaism. The main component of a Pharisee is that they make a pretense that they know God and do not know or want Him at all. They make clean the outside of the cup- but inwardly they were full of wickedness. They had a 'form' of godliness, but they denied the power thereof. They have said that it is "not in Heaven". This means that they are conducting their religion based on the Book and its commentaries and need no input from God.

To answer the question directly I would say that just because a person does *not* go to movies- it does not mean they are 'holy'. They could still be a Pharisee because they are doing the outward religion- but God is not welcome in their life. They want to come off as pious- but they have told God to get lost by their conduct.

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The reason Christians ought not subject themselves to these things is because we have a responsibility to protect our relationship with God from things that would grieve the Holy Spirit and drive God away (See Ezekiel 8). God will not hang around in a filthy heart no matter how much a person prays for forgiveness. We come to God by the blood of Christ- but we do not ask God to apply the blood to areas of our life that we refuse to forsake and are open abomination to Him.

Revival is when God comes. When God comes we have revival. We have to be prepared for God to arrive. We have to forsake things in our lives that drives Him far from us. Not for the sake of looking holy or boasting of our holiness- but that God would come and tabernacle inside of us. That is what makes a Christian a Christian. That is what separates us from the world. Not that we keep a bunch of rules- but that God's presence is upon us. We can keep the rules and make God unwelcome at the same time. This is a Pharisee.

Re: - posted by theopenlife, on: 2007/10/7 4:14

I've been blessed by several of these posts. Here are some more verses that came to me,

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

2 Corinthians 7:1

"Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good."

Romans 12:9

How can I abhor something that I watch for entertainment's sake? How can I perfect holiness while taking pleasure in what is unholy?

The detail that most appalls me is that movies are not simply fictional fantasy; hundreds of actors and directors, stage crew, etc. really do sin to make that blasphemous scene. They really are cursing on that sound stage. They really are undressing and fornicating, and taking pleasure in depicting brutality. And God really hates it as much now as when they made the movie. He hates it while believers and false converts watch such disgusting garbage. I am ashamed of myself, for what my eyes have seen since I met Christ.

Re:, on: 2007/10/7 17:10

Quote:
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Yes i do agree with this statement, we are not holy because we don't go to movies. I don't go to the movies much anymore, one reason is that it is to expensive, with two kids and to get a babysitter, then add a movie...EXPENSIVE. Honestly I can say there have been times that I didn't go or want to watch a TV program because I was doing an outward expression to God! What would be worse to GOD that or actually committing some sin? But I do believe now that I should make every effort to stay away from the indulgence of the flesh. Guys lets not kid ourselves, we can be lustful and I don't know about you, but I need to stay away for that sheer reason, not that God is impressed that i don't go and see filth, but I know what I am capable of. I mostly stay away because I am not holier than though, but I know that my eyes and mind can't see many things..

Proverbs 7 talks about the fool and the harlot.

key verse: 8 "Passing through the street **near** her house; and he **takes the way** to her house."

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Re: - posted by MattChenier (), on: 2007/10/7 23:19

I am very blessed and encouraged to see that everybody that has posted on this topic has been of one mind and one spirit that such movies are not of God. WHAT COMMUNION HATH LIGHT WITH DARKNESS?

I must go one step further as well to point out this scripture.

2ti 2:16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

If you put this scripture in the context in which it was written, it is talking about false doctrines not dirty jokes. But I believe such ungodly humor easily falls under the category of profane as well.

So with this I must conclude, it is wrong not to shun them for their actions if they call themselves Christians. The bible says to reprove the unfruitful works of darkness.

Consider what happened in this story in Judges Chapters 19 & 20.

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2007/10/8 0:03

Quote:
-----So with this I must conclude, it is wrong not to shun them for their actions if they call themselves Christians. The bible says to reprove the unfruitful works of darkness.

One of the things I have found is the need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit as I try to navigate in ministry. Sometimes we are looking at what a person watches or listens to and feel the need to confront that problem, when in reality it is symptomatic of a much larger issue.

It has been my experience that certain things vex me and I abstain from them. Other things are more of a temptation and I have to guard myself against them. When I am walking close to God and am in perpetual personal revival all of these things work themselves out. The Holy Spirit is at work bringing my life in toe.

However, no amount of 'do's' and 'don'ts' will make a person spiritual if they don't want God. It will only make a religious person that finds fulfillment in their exaltedness over others. They will be gratified not by the presence of God in their life- but by how they regard themselves as better than others.

Re: - posted by MattChenier (), on: 2007/10/8 0:22

Robertw,

You have lots of wisdom in what you said. I can tell that you have been with the lord for a while by what you said. This revelation of spiritual superiority came to me after 3 years of walking with the lord. And i got it the hard way, because I did regard myself better than others spiritually. A swift lesson on pride comes before a fall quickly did away with that sin! :)

Thank you for bringing balance to my post.

God bless!

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2007/10/8 1:10

Here is a sermon which is titled...

Living for Self or Living for Christ

<http://www.charityministries.org/audio/3742.mp3>

This sermon is taken from Charity Christian Fellowship of Ephrata Pa. Two of the speaker for the upcoming Revival Co

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nference come from this church.

In Christ
Jeff

Re: Is this Pharisaical...abstaining from certain movies and music? - posted by Warrior4Jah (), on: 2007/10/8 3:56

Dear reformer!

Can I read the article? :-)

God bless you!
Jonathan

Re: Is this Pharisaical...abstaining from certain movies and music?, on: 2007/10/8 6:23

Hey Reformer,

I think telling everyone WHY you won't go see a movie before it comes out would be pharisaical, (sp?) but you DID NOT do that, your friends found out after the fact and are amazed. Let them be amazed!

The movies they are putting out today can and will definitely cause you to stumble. I think the devil means it that way! So the world and even worldly Christians will NEVER understand why we follow the Spirit's unction. Keep listening to the Spirit!

Re: - posted by Warrior4Jah (), on: 2007/10/8 7:21

Dear sister Lisa,

Why would telling other people that you won't see a movie be pharisaical? Or do you literary mean 'everyone'? In that case I can imagine.

Thanks! :)
Jonathan

Re:, on: 2007/10/8 8:28

"Christians" who are friendly with the world can not stand Christians who are living a holy life. I believe part of this is because they feel convicted, but they refuse to accept the conviction because their love of the world is much stronger than their love of God. In fact, scripture says they can not love both... so in the end, they hate God. That's what the Word says, not what Krispy says.

What would make you a Pharisee is if you believed that by avoiding these worldly pleasures is what made you a Christian, and you condemned all those who do not do as you do... and yet, you really have no relationship with God at all.

Most church goers are completely ignorant of scripture. They don't even understand the definition of Pharisees, and to all true believers "Pharisees" who desire to walk holy before God makes them utter fools in the eyes of God.

To quote the Christian band Petra: "I'd rather be a fool in the eyes of man than to be a fool in the eyes of God"

Krispy

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Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/10/8 8:41

welcome back Krispy :-)

The word says Jas 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

and this verse is to me a great warning to not go "back" and enjoy the world or sin

2Pe 2:20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.

and this one is also scary

1Jn 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

so how is it with you? do you love the world? worldly movies? worldly company ? you better check on things with your relationship with Jesus.

when people call other for legalist or pharisee, many times it may be accurate, many times it just to justify ones "friendship" with the world.

Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2007/10/8 8:56

Quote:
-----so how is it with you? do you love the world? worldly movies? worldly company ? you better check on things with your relationship with Jesus.

The essence of all compromise... just a little bit of Egypt.

Re:, on: 2007/10/8 9:29

Quote:

Warrior4Jah wrote:
Dear reformer!

Can I read the article? :-)

God bless you!
Jonathan

No, their is a five dollar cover charge? renewed every month!! :-P

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Re:, on: 2007/10/8 9:30

Quote:

hmmhmm wrote:
welcome back Krispy :-)

The word says Jas 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

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Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Love it when hmmhmm comes to the post!! Always brings the heat!!

:-)

Re:, on: 2007/10/8 9:37

Quote:
-----I read an article on another blog, it was about certain Christians that don't go to movies and listen to popular music are Pharisee's.

Amen to everyones answer... the lukewarm, backsliders and compromised will always come up with defenses to justify their sin... and as the saying goes there's no defense like a good offense.

Quote:

We have some friends in our Sunday school that couldn't believe that we didn't see a movie called, "Knocked up and 40 year old Virgin." We never said anything about them going watching those movies and we never stated why we choose not too.

If these people went and saw the movie and are not ashamed of this, shouldn't they put out of fellowship for their open and shameless association with sexual immorality according to 1 Corinthians 5?

In Christ - Jim

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Re:, on: 2007/10/8 9:40

Quote:

KrispyKrittr wrote:

"Christians" who are friendly with the world can not stand Christians who are living a holy life. I believe part of this is because they feel convicted, but they refuse to accept the conviction because their love of the world is much stronger than their love of God. In fact, scripture says they can not love both... so in the end, they hate God. That's what the Word says, not what Krispy says. What would make you a Pharisee is if you believed that by avoiding these worldly pleasures is what made you a Christian, and you condemned all those who do not do as you do... and yet, you really have no relationship with God at all.

Most churchgoers are completely ignorant of scripture. They don't even understand the definition of Pharisees, and to call true believers "Pharisees" who have no desire to walk holy before God makes them utter fools in the eyes of God.

To quote the Christian band Petra: "I'd rather be a fool in the eyes of man than to be a fool in the eyes of God"

Krispy

Great point Krispy. People do hold a bunch of rules, I have caught myself trying to hold rules, but the great thing about the Holy Spirit, He will let you try on your own strength, knowing that it won't last. Not by our power or might but by the Holy Spirit.

I was reading Finney last night and he made a profound statement about consecration. Basically, we find ourselves daily being consecrated to the Lord if we accept His grace and are willing to submit. I find that the things that I used to do, I no longer desire to do, not that I am holy, but the Holy Spirit is consecrating me to conform to Christ. I have yielded and I have ignored, but thankfully He will not leave me the same.

Re:, on: 2007/10/8 9:48

Quote:

-----If these people went and saw the movie and are not ashamed of this, shouldn't they put out of fellowship for their open and shameless association with sexual immorality according to 1 Corinthians 5?

Love ya Jim, you sure can bring the noise when you need too!! However I don't agree with excommunicating someone based on going to those movies. Maybe the Lord has not dealt with them or maybe He has. I think we all are in stages in our lives and may not be at that point. But I also agree that they should feel ashamed. It would worry me if they didn't feel any conviction. When I first became a Christian, about a month or so after, I was drinking, later to come to find out, my heart was grieved and felt a strong conviction about it. I was so new in the beginning I didn't have anyone around to teach and disciple me in the Lord. But the Holy Spirit taught me this. Sometimes we can do something we think is ok and then BAM, right in the kisser. But as we mature in the Lord, we begin to be more sensitive to things! Yes or NO?

Re: - posted by Warrior4Jah (), on: 2007/10/8 11:50

Quote:

-----No, there is a five dollar cover charge? renewed every month!! :-P

You have to pay for that stuff too?! nvm :-)

Re: - posted by MattChenier (), on: 2007/10/10 2:20

When I posted that it was wrong not to shun the "Christians" that watched these movies. RobertW was very correct in saying that you should be sensitive to the spirit and also be careful not to become proud in your own spirituality.

I have thought about this a little over the last couple days. This scripture came to my mind.

Ezekial 3:18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn t he wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Eze 3:19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

Eze 3:20 Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which h e hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Eze 3:21 Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live , because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

Now before I start catching stones accusing me of spiritual pride and arrogance. Or accusations of harshness. Please stop to consider the point. If you love a person, will you not warn them? If you can preach the warning using actions and not words thats great. But, one way or another, preach the message.

You know, we are called to be the light of the world. And the bible says "whatsoever doth make manifest is light." If you think minding your own business and letting people figure it out for themselves is being light and love, you are wrong. And their blood is on your hands. Especially if they consider themselves part of the fellowship of Christ.

Eph 5:10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

Eph 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather * * reprove them.

Eph 5:12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

What's worse is that they do this shame openly and there are some who would say I am proud or judgmental for speaking out against it.

Re:, on: 2007/10/10 9:00

I agree that excommunication from the fellowship may be a bit extreme. If we applied that to everyone who partakes in worldly pleasures we would excommunicate every single "newborn" believer. There needs to be wisdom and discernment when it comes to church discipline. God deals with all of us at different speeds. It's like with my football players... I have to deal with them on an individual basis. I expect more out of some, and less from some... depends on their experience and development, etc. If I have a player who has played football for 5 or 6 years, I expect him to be playing at a much higher level than someone who hasnt. But I also might have a player who has 5 or 6 years of experience, but is physically not able to perform at the same level as a guy who is just a flat out athlete.

It's the same in the church.

Krispy

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2007/10/10 9:28

Quote:
-----What's worse is that they do this shame openly and there are some who would say I am proud or judgmental for speaking out against it.

I think the problem is that the folk cannot *relate* to what you are saying. When people are truly born again of the Spirit th

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ey see life completely different. I mean, it is like daylight and dark. Some things are foolishness because they are spiritually discerned.

If what a person is watching on TV or at the movies is of the spirit of antichrist and it agrees with their spirit- the problem is self evident. You need to keep casting the net, I think. Keep preaching the true Gospel. Allow the Holy Spirit to work in their life and bring them to genuine repentance and faith. Once a person is truly born again- their spirit changes. Where once they agreed with the course of this world- the new creation will NOT agree with it. To preach to them about the sinfulness of modern media is of little benefit in my opinion. They need to be born again and then they will SEE for themselves and won't need to be preached to and micromanaged all the time.