



Faith Talk

Trinity Canadian Reformed Church

Worshiping Sundays 9 am and 3 pm, 2553 Binbrook Rd E

God and Media

By Ronn VanAndel

Television, Radio, Newspaper, Magazine, DVD, Mp3, Computer and Internet. All around us the power and influence of the media is an ever present force. In fact, in the course of a day, we often shift from one form of media to another in an attempt to be entertained, informed, or simply kept in the loop of everyday life. Consider that your reading of this short article shows the influence of media in your life. From sunup to sundown, for many of us, media has a strong grasp on the hours of our days.

So what? Is this a bad thing? Can't we enjoy the music and information that our global village throws out at us on a constant basis?

Of course we can! There are many good gifts in our world that are given for the benefit of mankind. But there is a key phrase in this sentence that should cause us to occasionally consider what we reading, listening to and watching. In short, is the influence of the media of benefit to us? Each of us should be able to answer this question after some careful reflection.

Alongside that question is one further consideration. Do we have the time for media? And does the time we spend on these pursuits take away from other, just as important activities. Do we still spend good time with our spouse? With our families? Even with our parents and extended families? Do we take some quiet time to think, to read, to devote?

Does the influence of media cut into your time with God?

And that becomes a key question, doesn't it? When we spend a lot of time watching TV, chatting online, reading the latest magazine or enjoying our tunes, do we also consciously make some time to read our Bible or to engage in quiet prayer with our Father? If the answer is "no" or "hardly," let's take that as a wake-up call. God, who made us, and who sent his son to save us, also asks honour and obedience of us. So let's take the Word as an important 'influence' in our lives and live the words of James 1:22-3 "Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." Otherwise, as James continues in verses 23 and 24: "Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like." Only if God's Word is important to us will the impact of media in our lives find a healthy and proper balance!!

(Why not start today by reading the short letter of James. It's a valuable treasure of living truth for 2005 that is often overlooked. Look for it near the end of your New Testament!!)

Ronn VanAndel is a member of Trinity Canadian Reformed Church

<http://www.trinitycanrc.org>

Contact us at faithtalk@trinitycanrc.org