

Practical Theology - GBC
Entertainment

- 1) What is entertainment? What does it mean to “amuse”?
- 2) List some of the broad categories of activities that could fit the definition of entertainment.
- 3) Five critical categories can be used to evaluate the value of any particular entertainment choice: Cost, Chronometry, Company, Content, Control. What Biblical principles in each category can guide the Christian in determining whether any particular entertainment activity could / should be participated in. A few verses are included to prod your thinking.
 - A) Cost. Proverbs 3:9–10; 6:6–11; 13:18; 15:19; 21:5; 22:7; 26:16; 1 Timothy 6:8
 - B) Chronometry (Time) Psalm 90:12; Ephesians 5:16-17; Galatians 6:10
 - C) Company Proverbs 13:20; 23:20-21; 28:7; Psalm 119:63; 1 Corinthians 15:33
 - D) Content Romans 12:2,9; 16:20; 2 Cor. 10:5; 1 Timothy 6:11; James 1:14-15; 3 John 11;
 - E) Control 1 Corinthians 6:12
- 4) Should “art” be evaluated by a different standard than other objects of entertainment? If so, how so? If not, why not?
- 5) Explain Philippians 4:8 and the categories listed in it.
- 6) What is sanctification and why should that characterize the Christian?
- 7) How is the mind of a Christian transformed from its natural worldly state to being controlled by the wisdom from above?
- 8) Develop a list of basic questions you think should be answered before participating in any particular entertainment choice.
- 9) Are hobbies in themselves evil, good or neutral? Explain
- 10) Are sporting events in themselves evil, good, or neutral? Explain
- 11) Are amusement parks in themselves evil, good, or neutral? Explain
- 12) Are theaters / movie houses in themselves evil, good, or neutral? Explain

Case Studies

- 1) You are invited to attend a movie with some friends. What factors would you consider to determine whether you should attend or not? Where could you find accurate information about the content of the movie?
- 2) You are a fan of a particular sports team and are given tickets to its game against its rival. The game will begin at noon on Sunday. What would you do? What advice would you give to someone else who might be put in the same situation?
- 3) A parent comes to you for advice about their child's involvement in sports. The child has advanced enough to be asked to play on the leagues elite level. However the games are played on Sunday at different times of the day and often in distant locations. What advice would you give?
- 4) Parents come to you for advice about the music their teenager has started to listen to due to peer pressure. What questions would you ask? Advice you would give?
- 5) A couple comes to you for help with their marriage. In the course of your conversation with them you find out a major area of contention is finances. In asking more specific questions about their finances you discover they spend significant amounts of money on restaurants, sports, going out, vacations, hobbies and have a large cable bill. How will you help them gain a Biblical perspective on their finances and in particular their spending in these areas?
- 6) You ask a church member for help with a particular ministry he / she has helped with in the past, but are told he / she is too busy. You know from casual conversations and social media requests from them that they spend a substantial amount of time playing internet games. What might you ask / say in response?
- 7) In talking with a collegiate at church you find out his / her grades have been poor. From social media posts you are aware that he / she is involved in a lot of extra-curricular activities. What questions might you ask and what advice might you give to help them improve their grades?
- 8) A teen comes to you for advice. A group from church is planning on attending a particular movie, which he researched and found that it has sexually explicit scenes, profanity and blasphemy. He shared the results of his research with his friends, but they claimed they "had freedom in Christ," "It was not a big deal," "they could handle it." What advice would you give to the teen? What warnings might you give to his friends?