

## The Media

*In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.*

### Aim

- † To understand the influence of media on our life as Christian youth
- † To learn to be selective in what we expose our senses to

### Key Verse

*"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 anything"***  
(1 Cor 6:12)

### Lesson

The media has a great impact on our mind and behaviours; it influences our morals and personality. Unfortunately, the very basics of Christianity are sometimes completely ignored by the media. The freedom of media and speech in the West is a double-edged sword. Media can be a powerful tool for the devil to manipulate people. On the other hand, it can be efficiently used to glorify the name of the Lord and spread the Word.

#### **The Influence of the Media in our lives as:**

##### **A Constructive Tool**

- ❖ Educational, e.g. History channel and discovery channel
- ❖ Awareness to events around the world, e.g. News.
- ❖ Some Christian movies and religious messages are helpful spiritually
- ❖ We can learn from characters, e.g. Mother Teresa
- ❖ The internet can be a good source of Christian and educational material

##### **A Destructive Tool**

- ❖ Addictive - when the need for the item controls us; desire becomes the master and the person becomes the slave. Addiction of any sort is against spirit of freedom which God has granted us and has shed His blood for, freeing us from slavery to the Devil: *"So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed"* (John 8:36)
- ❖ Exposure to negative information harmful to our mental, spiritual, & social growth
- ❖ Often used excessively, taking time away from God, friends, and family
- ❖ May affect physical health if sleep is denied for internet time
- ❖ Exposure to sex and violence, which destroys the purity of the mind and heart
- ❖ Bombarding our ears with dirty language
- ❖ Justification of sins as norms of society, e.g. acceptance of homosexuality, adultery and abortion

## The Media

### How does the media influence our behaviours?

There can be no doubt that the wave of violence pervading movies and television screens finds a response particularly in youth and their behaviour. Los Angeles police in the US noted that a particular sort of crime predominantly took place in the hour following a certain television show. This indicated that viewers watched, and then put into practice what they had seen. It even seems as though films today fall into two main categories: those portraying violence and/or physical lust.

[CLASS DISCUSSION]

**How much time everyday do we spend on one or more of these forms of media, e.g. TV, Radio, Internet, movies, or music? Now compare that to the time we spend with God.** How many hours do you spend watching TV, listening to the radio, playing on the computer/internet...how many minutes do we spend with God? So... who is our real God?

### How can we face these influences?

#### A. Spiritual satisfaction

*"A satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb, but to a hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet"* (Proverbs 27:7)

Thus, if we fill our youth with Christ, the Bible, stories of saintly fathers and our spiritual lives with hymns, songs, spiritual readings and the ministry, we will satisfy our hearts and minds enabling us to overcome this control by the media. Those who are truly full and satisfied spiritually will have no need to watch to interact with negative media, only using what is beneficial, through the grace of the Holy Spirit.

#### B. Positive selections

A Christian possesses the guidance and inspiring inner light granted by God. This allows him to "examine everything and hold on to that which is good." He weighs matters according to the criteria stated in verses according to St. Paul:

*"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 anything"*

*"All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; All things are lawful for me, but all things do not edify"(1 Cor 10:23)*

### Conclusion

- ❖ Limit the time you spend in front of the TV as a practice for this week and try to make this a habit
- ❖ Investigate the effect of violence in the media on the rate of crime in the western world

**Glory is to God forever. Amen.**