



# PLUGGED IN

## GIVING GOD GLORY IN A MEDIA SATURATED SOCIETY

4/30/06

Hook – Spiderman clip

### Communication Theory

- Intention – Person Communicating -- MEDIUM -- Person Listening – Perception
- “Media” refers to the middle
- Big questions is about the intention and the perceptions
  - o The medium is innocent – it is the content that is the problem.
  - o Covenanter: “movie is the greatest tool to advance the Kingdom since the printing press.” Didn’t happen, though!
- Spiderman – good or bad? Good point, bad violence?

### Media History – story and teaching

- Talk, Text (esp with press), radio, phone, TV – multisensory (quicker and quicker images), web, video games
- Homer’s stories – stories AND theology
- Hebrew stories and law: Adam and Eve, Joseph, Moses, spies
- Stories help define culture – we have stories that are part of our culture, too. “Pop culture” = changes so quickly (b/c the stories change so quickly).

### Responding to the Media

- Some important Bible verses:
  - o Job 31.1: "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.
  - o Galatians 5.19-23: <sup>19</sup> The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
  - o Luke 11.34: <sup>34</sup> Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness. <sup>35</sup> See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness.
- Plato and Aristotle on Greek plays
- How should Christians respond to the media?
  - o Christ and Culture – what is your worldview?
  - o Loaded question – media is innocent! Our response should depend on what the content is.
  - o We need to develop FILTERS as we interact with the media



### Developing a Personal Media Filter

- What needs to be filtered?
  - o Language, violence (yes Americans!), sex, drugs...
  - o Filtered from ALL our communication – including friends, phone, print, etc.
- FILTER LEVELS
  - o Be Aware – always know that there is a person (with intention) making the media
  - o Be Wary – put your guard up against things that should not be in your brain
  - o Beware – do not put trash in the temple!
- Eye to the Media
  - o Verbal – less harmful b/c you remember less
  - o Print – books have set the world on fire! What should we do with the Da Vinci code?
  - o Music – Why is it so harmful or helpful? Emotion.
  - o TV/Video – what we see is actually “experienced” – it burns into our heads and can be remembered. TV can actually simulate emotion AND connect it to a story.
  - o Video Games – greatest potential for harm b/c of role playing. Rating system reflects this, but it is changing.
  - o Web – usually follows the thread of talking/print more than video, but that might change with bandwidth. Is harmful b/c of privacy – greater chance of lying, porn, etc. Helpful because of connection possibilities.

### Pursuing Prodigals

#### A Call to Glorify

- Exodus 31.1-5 – the first spiritual gift!
- We are called to use our gifts to bring God glory – including all our communication gifts. I encourage students to participate in making media for the Kingdom: web, pictures, movies, music. I encourage you, too!
- Cf. Matt 25: par of the talents

#### Resources:

- Focus on the Family: [www.family.org](http://www.family.org)
- Plugged In: [www.pluggedinonline.com](http://www.pluggedinonline.com)

::Questions::



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## GIVING GOD GLORY IN A MEDIA SATURATED SOCIETY

Pastor Scott Nelson

November 13, 2007

### Understanding Communication

#### Responding to the Media

- Some important Bible verses:
  
- Plato and Aristotle
  
- How should Christians respond to the media?

#### Developing a Personal Media \_\_\_\_\_

- What?
  
- 3 LEVELS
  - o Be \_\_\_\_\_
  - o Be \_\_\_\_\_
  - o Be \_\_\_\_\_

#### A Call to Glorify

- Exodus 31.1-5

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## Six Keys to a Healthy Entertainment Diet

Recognizing the wisdom of feeding our spiritual natures, we have to *discipline* ourselves to make that happen (James 1:22-25). Old habits die hard. And the flesh seems committed to undermining spiritual nourishment. So, we have nurture *new* habits.

Here in Colorado Springs, Colo., we have the privilege of hosting our nation's Olympic hopefuls at the U.S. Olympic Training Center. There we conducted an interview with Judy Nelson, nutrition coordinator with the Center's sports medicine division. The more Judy described her relationship with aspiring Olympians, the more she unknowingly offered a prescription for adults who want to help young people develop a healthy media diet.

1) *Even good kids need coaching.* "You'd think that, being Olympic athletes, they'd eat what's good for them, but that's not always the case," Judy admitted. Does this sound familiar? Just as a body driven by an Olympic dream can be seduced by a Quarter Pounder with cheese or a triple scoop of Ben & Jerry's, good kids from solid Christian homes and dynamic youth groups will be tempted to entertain themselves with movies, TV and music that are little more than media junk food. It happens all the time. That's why parents need to guide even the most serious young Christians toward edifying choices.

2) *Avoid a hit-list mentality.* Judy has also learned that, in her profession, throwing out sermonettes about nutrition doesn't work. Now, instead of giving athletes a rigid list of dietary dos and don'ts, she earns their respect by addressing each on his or her own level. In a personal, caring way, they discuss individual needs and goals, and how the proper diet can help accomplish them. In the same way, a heavy-handed attempt at controlling children's entertainment choices often breeds frustration. That's because presenting adolescents with a "hit list" of forbidden fare doesn't build critical thinking skills or involve them in godly decision making. What does? Taking time to engage teens in dialogue about content and messages framed in biblical standards in terms they understand.

3) *Maintain a healthy relationship.* Judy mingles with the athletes, building a rapport that earns her the *right* to give advice. Too many parents believe they have a license to lecture youngsters simply because they've been around the track a few more times. A close day-to-day relationship is vital to our effectiveness as counselors.

4) *Adapt diets to individuals.* Judy also recognizes that an athlete's *age* has significant impact on his or her diet. So it is with popular media. For example, what might be acceptable for a teen may *not* be suitable for an 8-year-old sibling. Keep in mind that there are, of course, poisons that should *not* be consumed by *anyone*.

5) *Help children "dine out" wisely.* "[The athletes] eat best when they're here at the training center," Judy shared, "but if they're away at school or somewhere else, they can get into bad habits." Likewise, it's easy to control your children's entertainment diet at home or in church. But what about when they're at a friend's house? What happens when they go away to college? Only those who have internalized a biblically-based discernment message will leave home equipped to run the marathon of a holy life.

6) *Accept your own limitations.* Finally, Judy Nelson realizes all she can do is offer prospective Olympians her wealth of dietary wisdom. She can't feed them. And though we hate to admit it, we can't indefinitely control the media diets of the young people we love. After we've done our prayerful best to give them healthy guidelines, it's up to *them* to bring home the gold.

*From PluggedIn Online, Focus on the Family*