

MANAGING A MEDIA-MANAGED WORLD

1 Peter 5:8 NASB

“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

Media literacy is our ability to _____, _____, _____, and _____ media.

- Media literacy requires us to be _____ users of media and not _____ users of media.

THE GOLDEN RULE

Be _____ of everything.

- If we find ourselves being “accidentally” or “passively” skeptical of the media, that is a good clue that we are not media literate.

Do not be _____ of everything.

- This is what it means to be “actively” skeptical, or skeptical on purpose.
- When we are equally skeptical of everything, we become ignorant of the world we live in.

WHO ARE THE MEDIA?

We must be _____ involved in every area of our kids’ lives because the media are _____ involved in every area of our kids’ lives.

- We cannot hope to beat the media when we are not at least operating at its level. Our goal, however, is to operate above and beyond its level.

The most important thing we must remember about today’s media is that _____ is the media.

- Anyone who communicates anything through any medium becomes a part of the mass media.

- As soon as new information is exposed to a child, he/she begins to explore it.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE MEDIA

Whenever our mindset about something is unhealthy, our response to it will always be extreme.

1. The media are inherently _____.

- The media are driven by _____ and/or _____.
 - We must remember that news organizations and social media are businesses and, like any other business, will do what it takes to make money.
 - The almost unlimited access to social media has allowed people to develop narcissistic habits when using media. At large, people now crave attention more than anything else.

2. The media _____ society.

- The media do not shape society, they strongly _____ it.
 - This truth is very encouraging because it says that we are still in charge of ourselves and our kids.

3. "It's all the media's _____."

- We can either complain about the media or we can do something on our end to change the way it affects us.

THE MEDIA AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Once the media displays a part of culture, it _____ that part of culture.

- We never want the culture of the world to seem normal to our young people. We want the culture of the Kingdom to be their normal.

Young people are like _____ concrete.

- Any impressions made in wet concrete are there to stay until that concrete is broken up.

Our young people are surrounded by the media and therefore we must be an active _____ in their lives.

- It is impossible to shut everything out and avoid the media.
- Parental control tools are important and necessary to the health of our young people, but we cannot allow those tools to cause us to become passive guardians.
 - o Parental control tools will protect against tangible indecency like pornography, obscenities, and lewd implications, but they cannot protect against culture.

BEING AN ACTIVE FILTER FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Don't just say "No."

1. Actively _____ their daily intake of media

- At the end of each day, go over with your child anything they saw, heard, or encountered throughout the day. Then patiently help them differentiate between the good and the bad, while giving them a thorough *and* biblical explanation of what makes the good things good and what makes the bad things bad.
 - o Highlight the good more than the bad. Give them something to pursue in place of the bad or they will run wild.

2. Drop everything and _____ it

- If something pops up on the television screen, anything from a statement in support of something unbiblical to a blatant image, *immediately* turn off the television and discuss with your child what God thinks about it.
 - o Immediately turning off the television or stepping out of the theater is an important part of protecting your child's mind.

3. _____ good media for them to follow

- If your child is old enough or allowed by you to use social media, create a social media account for yourself that you use as a tool to create media that is founded on the Word. No matter how much our young people are surrounded by the media, they still lean on the example of their parents and leaders. We need to realize that in order to be a proper example in the shadow of today's media, we have to become active users of that media.
 - Post scriptures you are currently reading.
 - Only post pictures of yourself or others wearing non-revealing, conservative outfits.
 - Post viewpoints on your page that oppose the viewpoints your child may witness in their own feed.

MISSION STATEMENT

We cannot afford to be ignorant of the lasting effect that the media has on our young people on a daily basis. We cannot force our young people to live in bubbles by having an unhealthy mindset about the media, but we also cannot continue to allow the ideas and lies of the enemy to slip through unnoticed. *Everything* our young people see and hear in the media has some level of impact on their present and future.

It is time for mothers and fathers, leaders and followers, to surround our young people and protect them from the agenda of the enemy that we often see in the media. It is time for *us* to begin shaping the culture we have allowed, whether by ignorance or hopelessness, to shape our kids. It is time for us to live our lives for them, and not for ourselves, for they are our future, and we want the future of this world to be left in the hands of a Word-filled and Kingdom-driven generation.