

The Value of Horror Movies

I. Everything that God calls a sin is a sin.

- The vast majority of movies in the contemporary horror genre are patently wicked because they celebrate sinful things.
- Sexuality, celebration of the occult, gratuitous violence, vulgar language, and other clearly sinful content is always going to be sinful.
- The exact same discernment and wisdom needs to be applied to all of our entertainment choices. There's no category of our lives where we can put God's expectations on the back burner and fly by the seat of our pants.

II. Hearing about or viewing someone doing something wicked (within the context of a story) is not a sin.

- The Bible is *filled* from Genesis 2 through Revelation 22 with the accounts of man's sin and lists of evil behavior.
- The key is to understand *why* it's there. God wants us to know Him, know ourselves, and make appropriate changes based off that information.
- God wants us to see the effects and consequences of sin. Therefore, if the story draws our mind to biblical realities, that can be very valuable.
- I think about I Timothy 5:20, "*As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.*"
- God wants the body of Christ to be made aware of unrepentant sin for the *express purpose* of instilling fear in us that we may actually do the same.

III. Fear is not always bad.

- The Bible is purposefully petrifying. The consequences of sin, both temporal and eternal, are exceedingly and absolutely horrifying. If you're honest with yourself, you have to admit that even the very existence of the God of the Bible is a terrifying thing for an unbeliever.
- *Fear is not inherently bad.* Fear has value.
- *We should* be petrified by the idea that we may displease the Lord. Unbelievers *should* be scared of hell. Everyone should be *horrified* by the very real consequences of sin. Every human being should be afraid of what will happen if they scorn the God of the universe.
- *Fear is not always bad.* Within the context of whether or not there's value in horror movies, we can't simply dismiss them because they're "scary."
- What we do know is that the God Who created fear uses it for Christ-honoring purposes. And we should seek to utilize it the way He does.

You don't have to watch scary movies in order to parent your kids well, but you are going to have to discuss genuinely scary things. You must.

And if you disagree with me on that, you're either reading a different Bible or believe that you don't have to use the Bible to parent your kids.

And we also have to consider that if God wants us to glorify Him in everything we do, and if we can't accidentally glorify God . . . then we're going to have to be more intentional and premeditated about why we do what we do. That includes our entertainment.