

## Entertaining Ourselves to Death?

We live in a society today in which teenagers are almost entertained to death, from the time they wake up to the time they go to bed. And many young people are growing increasingly jaded and cynical because of it. Every year, the movies and television strive to outdo themselves with more and greater spectacular effects and explosions, and every year the makers of video games come up with graphics that are even more realistic than the year before.

Every year, the children are being hyped to buy and consume at a greater rate - toys and games that are brighter, funnier, faster, more spectacular. And all we are doing by trying to conform our Christianity to this approach, is playing on the world's turf by it's own mind-numbing rules. And ultimately, we will always lose.

I am convinced that what young people will respond to today is not a Christianity that involves more worldliness, more entertainment, more hoopla, and a greater desperation to be "cooler than thou".

They can get plenty of this elsewhere. What is attractive about true Christianity is the things that are DIFFERENT - the things like true cleansing, eternal forgiveness, an intimate relationship with God, and battling on behalf of righteousness and truth, which CANNOT BE FOUND ANYWHERE ELSE. These are the things that will make true DISCIPLES out of today's young people. But do we dare preach it this way?

What we are actually doing by trying to make our Christianity more worldly, is placing it at a great disadvantage. We are stripping it of the things that historically have made the Christian faith so appealing and powerful. I am also convinced that more than anything else, today's jaded youth will respond to a CHALLENGE. In fact, I am convinced that the greater the challenge, the more interest and the greater level of discipleship there will be.

What today's "amused-to-death" young people need desperately is a cause worth fighting and even dying for - a cause that calls them to deny themselves and to live a life of radical obedience to God. Jesus Christ is that cause. And if we don't provide such a challenge to today's jaded generation, then don't be surprised if some much darker cause arises to steal their allegiance.

In many ways, today's youth, raised for much of their lives in a spiritual and moral vacuum, are truly ripe for the picking. And the devil knows this very well. If we are not willing to provide the youth with a cause worth fighting for, then he surely will.

(Entertaining Ourselves to Death?: The Crisis in Christian Youth Culture by Andrew Strom, Published by Revival School, Kindle, 1998 (online), 2008 (first printing), Location 350, 374, 396 of 3135; Paragraph structure has been modified)