

## **MEDIA AND FAMILY**

**This month we look at media and the family.**

**Evil communication corrupts good morals.**

Media is the collective communication outlets or tools that are used to store and deliver information or data.[1][2]

Last week, Mr David Sepuya laboured to show the importance of Media. He highlighted how it has been used in history.

Media was used in the biblical times to convey an infinite message to a finite and simple people. From the days of Moses with the tablets to the times of Jesus with the scrolls.

The gospel was spread using media , with the circular letters of the apostles and the written accounts of the different gospels.

It was the church that championed the printing press as many like William Tyndel, Martin Luther, Gutenberg, put their lives on the line to ensure the propagation of the word of God!

It is because of media that we are here today. We used to depend on print as the major form of media but now, social media seems to be taking over! We now have whatsapp messages sent to us about the service,

He said, "media is good, it just depends on the message and the usage"

### **The dark side (the miss use and the wrongness)**

Because of Media;

1. We have become so engrossed in ourselves, indulgent and deviant to our primary purpose in life. Do we know what our purpose is in life any way? If someone asked my generation and the millenials what we want in life, what sort of answers do we get? To be rich, to be respected, to not luck,.. To enjoy life. Media tells us to "live for self" ,live for now, live for pleasure. It's all about us. Our world revolves around us because we have been raised by media.

Because these philosophies have been engrained in our hearts and minds by repetitions and enticings, we have fewer fathers leading and fewer mothers nurturing. Life is about work, achievements and

ambition. It's not about contentment, settling down, and living! Egfamilies have been abandoned. Left to the maids and media to raise the kids. And once they are old enough, we complain about this dying generation.

[my dad didn't buy multichoice purposefully... We didn't buy generators... We sat out during the load shedding, he would play his guitar and we'd sing well into the night ]

2. We have forgotten how to be a blessing because we are looking for a blessing. Pastors ,super Apostles and self proclaiming prophets... Men of God have become self seeking ,self indulgent, selfish at the expense of the ignorant and weak. They prey on the vulnerable instead of praying for them. They seek out for their hard earned wealth by manipulative, godless and wicked displays of spiritual gymnastics. They wreck homes, they destroy lives and they leave in total disarray an entire generation.

**Elvis, said "to labour for your wedges is an insult to God"**

*[insert image]*

3. We are looking to ourselves and **devalue** everyone else. Unhealthy competitions(who has a better car, better house etc) , ungodly promotions (condoms, drugs, gambling ) , immoral life styles ( licentiousness, addictions, greed)

Media has made it possible.

It popularises indecent cultures and advances immoral value systems.

It lifts up personalities and disposes character..even in church we see this. We honor men of God, the rich, the popular, the politician....

It raises our children and destroys legacies (determines parent hood)

**illustration** : "our church is dead". A pastor had a revelation about the state of his church but didn't know how to wake them up.

That morning he went do his church and set up a coffin with a mirror inside. He preached a sermon on death and people came later to pay their respects by looking at who died.

We are the problem with society. Not the government, not the failed systems. We. Our sinful nature... A weak church founded on weak families believing weak philosophies and living by weak principles. It will always get worse.

Media will exalt the riches of the vile and lifestyles of the corrupted.

This, at the expense of the hard workers, diligent servants and the contented believers.

It rips them of their purpose and hands them pleasure... (we are taught to live for something greater than ourselves.... But today, there is no one greater than oneself to live for.)

The connected, the tycoons, the thieves, the violent, the shameless, the selfish, the "prophets" are exalted for their ambition and achievements

Media will lift up sexual prowess and licentiousness over the faithfulness, decency and sanctity of marriage and relationships. The adulterers are praised, the fornicators are celebrated (Australia now has legislated gay marriages), the vulgar are exalted, the naked are worshiped,

### ***Facts and stats***

A study, published in the journal Computers in Human Behavior by researchers from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and Boston University, compared state-by-state divorce rates to per-capita Facebook accounts. They also used data from a 2011-2012 survey that asked individuals about marriage quality and social media use.

They found that a 20% annual increase in Facebook enrollment was associated with anywhere from a 2.18 % to a 4.32 % increase in divorce rates depending on the model used. Similarly, the model from individual survey results predicts that someone who does not use social media is over 11 percent happier in his or her marriage than a heavy social media user.

In 2004, before the United States Senate, Dr. Jill Manning found that 56% of divorce cases involved one party having an obsessive interest in pornographic websites.<sup>1</sup> Another source, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, polled 350 divorce attorneys in 2003 where two thirds of them reported that the Internet played a significant role in the divorces, with excessive interest in online porn contributing to more than half such cases.

In Uganda, the starts are no different. Families have been destroyed! Homes are broken... There is little to no communication..... Save for social media

***[insert picture here of social media families ]***

..may God help us.

The search for identity and the feeling of never being enough wrecks within countless relationships.

Through media and especially social media, porn has eroded our society.

Porn deals in three ways

- a real body isn't good enough,
- one body isn't good enough

-your wife's body isn't good enough ~Andy Stanly

Whether it's porn, or an addiction... Whether is a promotion of an idea or condoning of a philosophy, this is a glimpse into the darkness that is Media. It's effects on individuals and families.

### **What then?**

Our problem as Christians is that we have become activists and reactionary Christians. Moralists and sensationalist that are ever fighting the tide and onslot of media.

Unfortunately, our principles of engagement as Christians are not biblically based.

Look at how we treat those that curse us, look at how we respond to the government and politics. Look at how we react to homosexuals....

See how we address sin and sinners.... It has little to do with biblical principles, philosophies and practices.

The ideas of turning the other cheek, reconciliation, forgiveness, restoration discipleship as seen in scripture have become alien in our churches...

### **1 Cor.15:**

We revert back to the greatest media of all... The Bible. Even at Paul's time, we see people fighting the truth.

Paul, in Ch15 challenges his readers. There was false roumours. Media had spread propaganda and made them out to be liars. He defends his stand using this very media and affirms the truth

"if the resurrection didn't happen, then we are deemed liars"

Paul's primary emphasis was to proclaim truth. That is what we do. We must use social media for the truth of God's word.

If the good usage kg media for us believers is to proclaim the truth,

The negative usage is to propagate anti-truth philosophies, principles and practices.

Jesus tells us categorically that He is that way the TRUTH and the life.

Media that is based on the Truth As revealed in Christ, promotes agendas based on the philosophy, principles and practices of truth.

*[How much of this do we see in our news today? After watching news, do we feel lifted up, encouraged, charged to be the difference we want to see? Or do we feel like fleeing our God forsaken land. It creates suspicion, promotes racial, tribal and religious divides ,it wrecks homes, shames the lowly, etc.... ]*

Media darkens the light of hope and faith in God that could transform nations.

Paul, quoting Isaiah pointed out men that live this way.

"let's eat and drink for tomorrow we die ". This is a horrid attitude. One of anarchy, devoid of decency and founded on selfish, pointless, and purposeless indulgencies... Gratifying the desires of our sinful lives.

But he says,

Do not be deceived. Do not be misled. He speaks to us... Yes us even now. Not to be misled by all that is deceit.

We must not let the principles and philosophies determination our practices in life....

We are warned Stanly by Paul.

He quoted a famous Greek poet then, saying Bad company corrupts good morals. We often think of this verse to only mean friends... Close people.... Allow me to stretch it further to point to the idea of anything that occupies your mind excessively. Anything that takes our hearts from the agenda of peopergating and promoting truth as seen in the light of Christ, that is bad company. Is it your phone, your laptop, your tablet, your Newspaper... Are you becoming supersticios, suspicious or pessimistic around those that depend on the hope and love you aught to give?

Are you distant and non communicative? Parents, is Media your mode of parenthood? Is your child being raised by TV and the phone because you have no time?

Young men and women, Have we Lost ourselves and our purpose, trying to fit in the mold of health, wealth and prosperity the media has modeled for us?

Do we still care to live for something grater than ourselves?

Vs 33

How do we bring the light?

Come back to your senses. Paul says.

Return to the truth. You who has been living a lie, return to the way, you who strayed away, return to life, you who is dead in your sin.

Jesus, in John, declares himself the way the truth and the life. If he is the way, walk in him, if he is the truth, speak of Him, if he is the life, we live or die for him.

**How do we interact with the truth?** How do we stop the anti-truth philosophies, principles and practices from taking route?

Luke reports it well when Jesus challenged the disciples to do this one's thing....

**Wake up! Pray!**

So you may not fall into temptation, pray.

So you may not be led astray, pray.

So you may find strength to let go, pray.

My father taught me saying, "Prayer is the participation with God in letting his Kingdom come, His will be done." It is a privilege to commune with the Father.

When Prayers in faith ,we receive courage, when prayer is in trust, we find rest, when prayer is in love, we live in love.

Wake up. Pray.

The greatest media for the gospel is a life dead to the world and its tenets.