



RCCG OCEANIA

Spiritual Disciplines

Media's Influence on the Soul

At a Glance

BIG IDEA

In a world dominated by media, understanding its influence on the soul is crucial. The battle for the mind is a battle for the soul, and media plays a pivotal role in shaping thoughts and beliefs. By aligning media consumption with God's principles, believers can protect their souls and strengthen their spiritual lives.

PRIMARY PASSAGES

Ephesians 2:2

Proverbs 23:7

John 1:1-3

Key Takeaways

- The human will is a powerful force that can be influenced by media.
- Media can either corrupt or clarify the messages received by the soul.
- The battle for the mind is fundamentally a battle for the soul.
- Monitoring media consumption is essential to protect the soul.
- Aligning media with God's Word helps maintain spiritual integrity.

Introduction

In today's world, media is a pervasive force that shapes our thoughts, beliefs, and ultimately, our souls. Understanding the influence of media is essential for anyone seeking to live a life aligned with God's principles. This study explores how media impacts the soul and the human will within God's kingdom.

Scripture Reading

- **Ephesians 2:2** — Highlights the influence of the 'kingdom of the air' and its impact on human thought.
- **Proverbs 23:7** — Emphasizes the power of thoughts in shaping one's identity and actions.
- **John 1:1-3** — Illustrates the foundational role of the Word in guiding truth and understanding.

Key Points

1. **The Power of the Human Will** — The human will is incredibly powerful and can be swayed by external influences, particularly media. Understanding this power is crucial for spiritual growth. The will determines our choices and actions, and when influenced by media, it can lead us towards or away from God's path. Recognizing the strength of the human will helps us guard it against negative influences.
 - Reflect on how media influences your daily decisions.
 - Identify areas where your will may be swayed by media.
 - Pray for strength to align your will with God's desires.

Key Points (cont.)

2. **Media's Role in Shaping the Soul** — Media serves as a conduit for messages that can either corrupt or clarify the soul's understanding. It is vital to discern the media we consume. The 'kingdom of the air' often uses media to spread messages that conflict with God's truth. By being selective about what we watch, read, and listen to, we can protect our souls from harmful influences.
 - Evaluate the media you consume and its impact on your soul.
 - Choose media that aligns with biblical values.
 - Discuss with others how media influences their spiritual journey.

Scripture: Ephesians 2:2

Key Points (cont.)

3. **The Battle for the Mind** — The mind is a battleground where media influences can lead to spiritual victory or defeat. Protecting the mind is essential for safeguarding the soul. As we think, so we are; therefore, guarding our thoughts against negative media influences is crucial. By filling our minds with God's Word, we can resist the negative messages that media often presents.

- Memorize Scripture to combat negative media influences.
- Practice mindfulness to be aware of media's impact on your thoughts.
- Engage in regular mental 'check-ups' to assess your thought life.

Scripture: Proverbs 23:7

Key Points (cont.)

4. **Aligning Media with God's Principles** — By engaging with media that aligns with God's Word, believers can reinforce their spiritual integrity and protect their souls from negative influences. The Word of God is the ultimate guide for truth and understanding, and when our media choices reflect this, our spiritual lives are strengthened. This alignment helps maintain a clear conscience and a strong connection with God.
 - Create a list of media that aligns with biblical teachings.
 - Share positive media resources with your community.
 - Regularly review and adjust your media consumption habits.

Scripture: John 1:1-3

Group Discussion

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

Observation

- What are some examples of media that influence your daily life?
- How does Ephesians 2:2 describe the 'kingdom of the air'?
- In what ways can media shape our thoughts and beliefs?

Interpretation

- Why is the human will so susceptible to media influence?
- How can media either corrupt or clarify our understanding of the soul?
- What does Proverbs 23:7 teach us about the power of our thoughts?

Application

- What steps can you take to align your media consumption with God's principles?
- How can you protect your mind from negative media influences?

Application (cont.)

- In what ways can you encourage others to be mindful of media's impact on their souls?

Prayer Focus

- Pray for discernment in media consumption to align with God's principles.
- Ask for strength to guard the mind and soul against negative media influences.
- Seek wisdom to use media as a tool for spiritual growth and truth.

Next Step

Evaluate your media consumption and make intentional choices that align with biblical values.

Conclusion

Media is a powerful force that can shape our thoughts, beliefs, and ultimately, our souls. By understanding its influence and aligning our media consumption with God's principles, we can protect our spiritual integrity and strengthen our relationship with God. Let us be vigilant in guarding our minds and souls against negative influences, choosing instead to fill our lives with truth and light.