

## **Are We Kidding Ourselves?**

**By David Wright**

Mature disciples of Jesus acknowledge that watching profane or obscene TV programs and movies is inconsistent with a profession of faith in Christ. In his Sermon on the Mount, the Lord said, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Matt. 5:8). And the author of Hebrews urged the church to strive for “the holiness without which no one will see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14). Yes, curse words and lewd images are deeply offensive to mature Christians.

But what about violence? Hollywood caters to America’s insatiable appetite for violent entertainment. War movies and thrillers are now as realistic as producers can possibly make them. More, playing video games gives teenagers the opportunity to pretend all manner of brutal acts, from shooting police officers in the head to beating up streetwalkers. Is watching or pretending violence an innocent pastime?

The Genesis flood narrative reveals the sober truth. In the days of Noah, “the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. And God said to Noah, ‘I have determined to make an end of all flesh; for the earth is filled with violence through them’” (Gen. 6:11-13). The Lord decided to deluge the world with water. And why? Because it was “filled with violence.”

How can it be wise for Christians to entertain themselves with the sounds and images of something that God hates? Is an extremely violent movie “clean” simply because it has no profanity or obscenity in it? Or are we kidding ourselves?

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