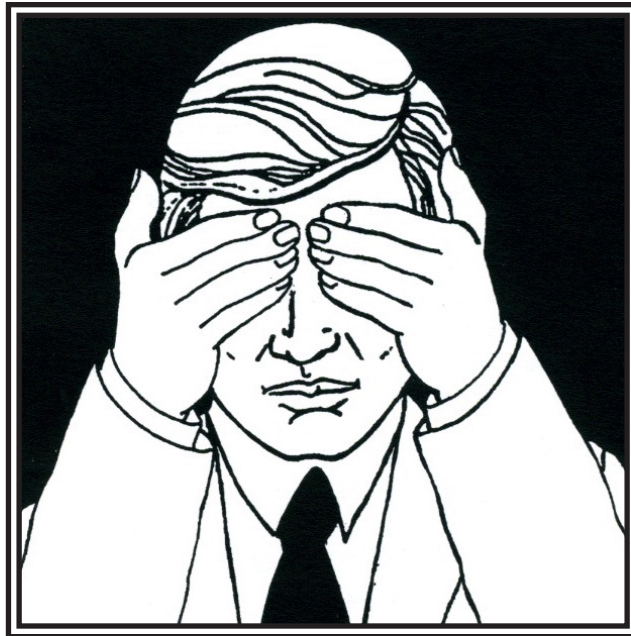


Watch Your Eyes!



by B. R. Hicks

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Watch Your Eyes!

Eyesight is one of God's greatest gifts to mankind because He has placed within this faculty of man's being the creative force that is able to transform us into what we look upon.

The Principle of Truth which confirms that we become like what we look upon is revealed in the first Book of the Bible.

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons (Genesis 3:1-7).

God's new creation, called mankind, possessed natural eyesight. This is evident in that Adam-male and Adam-female were able to distinguish the various Trees in the Garden of Eden. However, mankind did not have his inner eyes of understanding opened

at this time. There was no way that man could perceive and walk in all the Spiritual Truth that God had placed in the Garden.

Knowing that Adam-male and Adam-female did not have the ability to separate Good and Evil, God forbade them to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. If the pair had humbled their hearts, obeyed God's Word, and eaten freely of the Trees which He had provided for them, God would have blessed the food, and they would have attained the stature that would have enabled them to have eaten of the Tree of Knowledge in the Perfect Will of God.

Unfortunately for us, our first parents let their eyes feast upon the wrong Tree, and Death was the speedy consequence.

In his Serpent form, fallen Lucifer artfully managed to get Adam-female to gaze upon the forbidden Tree until she partook of its fruit. Since Adam-female possessed only outward vision, she could see no harm in the Tree. Outwardly, it seemed good for food. Outwardly, the fruit threatened neither danger nor death. But, that was because Adam-female did not have the inner eyesight needed to look beyond the outward appearance and see the inner nature of the Tree. The fact that Adam-female failed to understand all that her eyes gazed upon did not keep the creative force in her eyesight from working. As she looked upon the Tree of Death and ate of its fruit, she became like what she looked upon — a creature filled with Death.

The Patriarch Jacob had a revelation of the Principle that we become like what we look upon, and he put the Principle into operation in his daily life.

And Jacob took him rods of green poplar, and of the hazel and chestnut tree; and pilled white strakes in them, and made the white appear which was in the rods. And he set the rods which he had pilled before the flocks in the gutters in the watering troughs when the flocks came to drink, that they should con-

ceive when they came to drink. And the flocks conceived before the rods, and brought forth cattle ringstraked, speckled, and spotted (Genesis 30:37-39).

The spotted and ringstraked animals were the weakest of the flock when Jacob agreed with Laban to accept these animals as his hire for watching Laban's flock. When the animals had come to drink and had gazed upon the ringstraked rods before their eyes, they conceived and brought forth offspring that were ringstraked.

The miracle is that the parent animals were not ringstraked. According to nature they should have produced solid coloured offspring; however, because of the great procreating force of their eyesight, they brought forth ringstraked offspring, according to what they had looked upon.

The New Testament reaffirms the Principle that we become like what we look upon.

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord (II Corinthians 3:18).

When Christians behold, with open face or open eyes, the LORD in the Word of God, they become like the glorious Image of the lovely LORD and Saviour. As we gaze upon the glorious Light and liberating Truth in the Word of God, we are transformed from Glory to Glory, from one degree of glorious Grace to another, until we are consummated in Glory and Grace forever. We can become like the LORD only as we look upon Him in the Glory and Beauty of His Word.

It is obvious from these few Scriptures that the eye is a tremendously powerful faculty. We can see, then, that it is vitally important for Christians to give some sober thought to how they use their eyes and what they gaze upon.

The moment one speaks of things which the eyes may look upon, television comes into mind. The very name of “television” joins it to the eyesight, which is the most powerful of our sensory channels.

The name *television* comes for the Greek word *tele*, meaning *far*, and the Latin word *videre*, meaning *to see*. Thus, television means *to see far*. Occasionally, television is referred to as *video*, a Latin word meaning *I see*. Television is a farseeing eye which possesses great power to influence the minds and wills of those who look upon it. Therefore, the subject of television viewing is not something to be accepted casually by anyone.

Jesus Christ died to redeem us from the sin and Death that came into this world as a result of our first parents’ gazing upon the forbidden Tree and eating its fruit. Therefore, as redeemed creatures, we have no business opening the door that brings the world, with all its death and destruction, into our home through the instrument of television. Let us consider some very good reasons for *not* watching television.

I. Television Is Controlled by Satan.

One of the first reasons that Christians should not watch television is that it is controlled by Satan. God’s Word declares that Satan is the Prince of this world and the Prince of the power of the air. As the Prince, Satan has taken control of the medium of television. Satan’s anointing is on many of the actors and much of the material that goes out over the air waves and enters into the homes of millions of people. Through program plots based on murder, thievery, adultery, and all manner of vices, the television acts as an instructor in how to break all ten of God’s Commandments. This proves that God is not the Controller of television programming.

Admittedly, there are a few Christian programs on television, and we certainly are not saying that these programs are anointed by Satan; they are not. However, these programs are low-keyed as far as the

Word and Power of God are concerned; thus, they provide little substance for feeding the soul of a hungry-hearted Christian who desires to grow in God.

One big thrust in the world, today, is what is called *white witchcraft*. Members of the occult call it using the powers of witchcraft for good, and television has created an atmosphere of acceptance for those who call themselves good or white witches. Christians must remember that witchcraft is witchcraft, whether it wears a black dress or a white one. Witchcraft is an enemy to the things of God. The introduction of witchcraft is part of Satan's plan and preparation to assist the Antichrist when he comes to take up his rule and reign over the world. A glance at the local listings of current television programs will show that our world is being prepared, right now, for the appearance of the Antichrist. Christians should want no part of something that is a tool in the hands of Satan.

II. Satan's Anointing on Television Transforms It into an Idol.

Another good reason for not watching television is that God's Second Commandment forbids idolatry or images that turn people's hearts and minds from the True and Living God. Because of the satanic anointing on the bulk of its programs, television is far more than a piece of furniture. It falls into the category of an idol as far as God is concerned. Many of God's people sit with their eyes glued to the TV set, little realizing that in their hearts they are bowing down in worship to an idol image.

Some housewives are so bound to the idol of TV that they would not dream of missing their favorite soap opera, and some of them are so emotionally involved that they go out looking for a real life Romeo who will correspond to their idol on the TV show.

Let us hasten to add that women are not the only ones who bow their hearts to the idol called TV. Men are just as guilty. Their idol controls them to the point that they cannot be friendly or courteous if guests

happen to arrive during their favorite program. Men, too, let their eyes and hearts stray from their companion at home while they search for a woman who looks or acts like the stars on the TV shows.

The TV idol also controls the actions and behaviour of young people and children. For example, instead of studying for an upcoming test or going to bed at an early hour so that they can get the proper rest and be prepared for the responsibilities of the next day, young people will sit up late to watch their idol. And, children respond slowly to their mother's requests and instructions because they are absorbed in worshipping their idol.

It would be impossible to count the number of family arguments that have started out of a child's reluctance to leave the TV set. Christians can spare themselves much of this class of emotional turmoil simply by getting rid of the offending idol.

III. Television Is Destructive to Family Life.

God Himself established the first family unity. He intended for a man and his wife and children to come together as a family to share the pleasures of life and love. Instead of bringing a family together in a new closeness of spiritual and natural fellowship, television has become a destructive force that has separated the family unit until the individual members are virtual strangers to one another. Some affluent families can afford for each member to have his own TV set. In such cases the family does not even assemble together in the same room, but each person wanders off to watch his favorite program alone. Instead of a loving family coming together to enjoy a meal and peacefully share the experiences of the day, a number of strangers sit through the dinner hour with their emotions stirred to a high pitch by some pseudo-emotion coming from the *TV*.

Some marriages have ended in divorce courts simply because one of the partners made a habit of watching the late TV show and, then, was too

exhausted to give their companion the love and attention needed to keep the home together. Yes, TV robs the family of its togetherness. It is our responsibility as Christians to war against every enemy, including television, that would destroy the closeness of the family unit.

IV. Television Has a Corrupting Influence on the Morals of Children.

God has ordained that parents are to train up a child in the way he is to go. A child has an impressionable mind; he does what he sees his parent-teacher doing. If the parents are godly people who teach their children to love and respect God's Word and God's House, their children will grow up with some godly Principles instilled in their hearts. But, child-training takes time.

Many moral problems in our country today stem from the fact that a remarkable number of parents have turned their child-training duties over to a TV baby-sitter.

The moral corruption that can be traced to the television is astonishing. It is a statistical fact that television is responsible for turning some children into criminals and murderers. Children see violence and murder on television, then, act out, in real life, what they have seen on the screen. Their young minds are unable to separate the illusionary world of TV from real life. Murders and acts of cruelty are becoming more and more frequent because of all the violence that is viewed by the youth of our nation.

Television also has been responsible for promoting an alcoholic problem among children under thirteen years of age. After seeing alcoholic beverages advertised and projected on TV as luscious drinks and after seeing drinking as being socially acceptable, these youngsters put their knowledge into action. Before they have hardly started to live, they have become addicted to strong drink. Some of them live out their days as derelicts in the gutters of society.

Television affects children with wrong mental images of sex. As a Pastor, I have counselled desperate parents whose four-and-five-year-old children have confessed their physical reactions to the love-making scenes viewed on a neighbour's television. It amounts to emotional cruelty to expose children to something that will excite in them strong sexual emotions long before they possess either the mental or physical maturity to cope with such drives. A child who grows up with his emotions strained by distorted sex images and attractions certainly will be far from normal in his emotional reactions later in life.

It also is a statistical fact that a great number of our children have learning disabilities, some of which are attributable to the influence of the television. A child has problems sitting down and concentrating when his first degree of intelligence has been hypnotized through watching so much TV, and many professionals in the fields of elementary and higher education will affirm this fact.

One estimate says that the average eighteen-year old in the United States has clocked up to 22,000 hours of TV watching time. All this time in front of the TV prevents a child from experiencing the normal expression of growing up. TV robs the child of the chance to use his mind to form pictures and images out of his own thinking. TV robs the child of his initiative to create his own forms of entertainment since, from his earliest memories, the child has been constantly entertained by a professional entertainer. It is no wonder, then, that children lose their powers of concentration. It is no wonder that even experienced educators fail to hold their attention in school. According to reports, educators are desperate because this learning disability is so common. Universities have had to lower the standards of their entrance exams in order to admit students. Now, people with what once was termed *average* intelligence appear to be mental giants. The mentality of countless people has been deformed and paralyzed because they have spent great portions of their waking hours watching TV.

Researchers have discovered that if the first degree of intelligence, which is man's living, loving, choosing intelligence, is not developed in the first three or four years of a child's life, he is deformed and disabled for the rest of his life and never can learn to his fullest capacity.

In some instances, television fosters the withdrawal syndrome from life's realities; thus, the television is instrumental in causing some young people to enlist the help of drugs to continue their withdrawal from life's realities.

It is sad to see parents pawing their children off on the destructive baby-sitter called the *boob tube*. They rob their children of their primary learning ability, and at the same time deprive themselves of the blessed privilege that parents have of personally teaching their children the basic concepts of life.

Through television, people's learning centers have become hypnotized and paralyzed against good emotions such as mercy, compassion, and love. The continual viewing of crime and suffering produces an immunity to these emotions in the minds and hearts of the viewers. Therefore, if they see someone suffering or dying in real life, they can watch without being moved. It is a fearsome thing to think what it would be like to live in a world totally void of the good qualities of mercy, compassion, and love. Without these redeeming virtues, the world would be a living Hell.

When high school teens can commit murder and say that they never realized the victim's death would affect the victim's parents and classmates in such a traumatic way, then, truly, TV has deadened teens ability to distinguish between reality and unreality and has killed every kind human emotion.

V. Television Is Destructive to the Physical Body.

God has given our physical body to us, and He expects us to take the best possible care of it. The increase in the deterioration of children's eyes as a result of watching television is an alarming problem.

We once were an active nation, but we have become a nation of sedentary spectators as a result of TV. Without proper physical exercise, the entire body suffers. Children vegetate in front of the TV when they should be out playing in the fresh air. Their elders grow fat watching TV when they should be out doing productive, interesting things that would add firmness to their physical bodies and sparkle to their eyes. Television eats away at the vital parts of man's entire being. Therefore, the intelligent answer for a person is to regroup his thinking about the hours he spends in front of the television.

VI. Television Advertising Exerts an Evil Influence on Viewers.

A great portion of television time is devoted to advertising the products of the sponsors. This is no small point since the television works through the eye gate and, therefore, possesses a power similar to that of Jacob's ringstraked rods.

Television advertising works on the conscious and subconscious levels of man's mind. God's Word says, "Thou shalt not kill." Yet, by provoking the greed in the human heart, television kills many people economically, keeping them on financial poverty row. Because of the influence of television, many people rush out to buy things they really do not need nor want and things they cannot afford. They continually buy more and more on credit until some are forced into bankruptcy.

God wants His children to be good stewards of the material substance they possess. This is easier to perform if we are not being influenced by powerful television advertising.

VII. Television Is a Thief of Time.

TV is a thief of time. God has appointed us invisible spiritual days of Light to accompany our visible days of light, which are called *time*. Then, God has told us to redeem time.

Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is (Ephesians 5:14-17).

The only way for us to redeem time is by laying hold of God's spiritual Light of Truth in His Word — every day. If we let the thief called TV rob us of our days of Light and Life in the Word of God, we are robbed spiritually for Eternity.

On the natural side, television also robs us of time that should be spent sharing with our family. Children are young just once. Whatever parents do for their children must be done in the few short years of their childhood. Time spent in front of a TV cannot be regained later. It is lost to us forever.

VIII. Television Is Deceitful.

Television deceitfully lures Christians into watching it by promising them that they do not have to watch its evil, only its good. I have not yet seen one person who has been able to maintain this great spiritual judgment and control. Although they start out with intentions of viewing only the good, they shortly succumb to watching the violence and crime that produces aggressive behaviour in young and old alike.

Is there a good side of TV? There could be. The invention itself is fantastic. The potential for good is limitless. However, under its present control of Lucifer, it is full of death and destruction.

After reading social scientists', physiologists', pediatricians', and educators' comprehensive studies of the present television system, one finds decidedly negative reports. Therefore, I remind you that as Christians we, as Job, are responsible before God to also make a covenant with our eyes to look upon that which is good and not to look upon that which

is evil. Thus, we will be able to redeem the time that God has given us in this life.

Let us feed on the Truth of God's Holy Word. Let us grow up into spiritual maturity. Let us press toward the Mark of the Prize of being in that New City, the Bride of the LORD Jesus Christ!

Remember, to guard your heart and soul is to guard your eyes. Watch your eyes!

