

*Counterfeit Gods—Defeating the Idols that Battle for Our Hearts*  
**“The god of Entertainment”**

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Ephesians 5:15-16

11.11.18

- A. In our world as a whole, and certainly in American culture, one of the biggest idols that has consumed people’s hearts and minds is the god of \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Entertainment is \_\_\_\_\_ wrong in and of itself.
- C. How is it that we can easily offer those kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ to the god of entertainment, but often offer so \_\_\_\_\_ to God the Father.
- D. Consider the fact that life as God made it is full of \_\_\_\_\_ things.
- E. Entertainment should be \_\_\_\_\_.
- F. Solomon, who had incredible wealth and power, spared no \_\_\_\_\_ in trying to \_\_\_\_\_ himself.
- G. Solomon was looking for the meaning of life in amusement, but amusement is meant to be a \_\_\_\_\_, not the \_\_\_\_\_ event.
- H. Amusement is the lack of \_\_\_\_\_ - the lack of \_\_\_\_\_, and we seek amusement because we don’t want to \_\_\_\_\_.
- I. Instead of inspiring our \_\_\_\_\_ and apathetic existence, the god of entertainment makes us even \_\_\_\_\_ that way.
- J. We are made for God, and until He is our greatest \_\_\_\_\_, all the other pleasures of this life will lead to \_\_\_\_\_.
- K. The god of entertainment has not only taken many captive to secular entertainment, but the god of entertainment has taken over much of \_\_\_\_\_.
- L. God is the \_\_\_\_\_ in worship—worship must be directed to Him, not to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the worshipers.
- M. Questions for introspection:
  - 1. What are my favorite forms of entertainment?
  - 2. How much time am I spending on entertainment?
  - 3. Where and when am I exhibiting the most commitment, passion and excitement?
  - 4. What is affecting my worldview the most?
  - 5. Am I addicted to entertainment?
- N. M.E.D.I.A. acronym.
  - 1. M\_\_\_\_\_, E\_\_\_\_\_, D\_\_\_\_\_, I\_\_\_\_\_, A\_\_\_\_\_ God.

The god of entertainment promised us a circus. And in our adult world, which can be gray and drab, filled with obligations and responsibilities, that sounded pretty good.

We looked for attractions and surprises and amusements to create in us a sense of wonder. Maybe we would find it in music or in movies or in games or in sports. The god of entertainment was hawking them all, like a carnival barker: “Step right up! Be amazed, be amused! Come one! Come all!”

But in the end, the music was flat, the movies were formulaic, and the games were rigged. The circus would leave town and we wait impatiently for another one to take its place.

Then we found our passion in Jesus. If you haven’t experienced it yourself, I get that it should ridiculous – how could a dusty old Bible character compete with big-budget movies or action-packed games or soulful tunes? But once you know Jesus and passionately pursue him, it seems ridiculous that we thought we could ever find what we wanted on a movie screen, a website, or a playlist.

Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (Jn.10:10)

Answer Key: A. Entertainment. B. Not. C. sacrifices, little. D. entertaining. E. life-giving. F. expense, entertain. G. sideshow, main. H. inspiration, reflection, think. I. bored, more. J. pleasure, emptiness. K. Christian, worship. L. audience, whims. N. Message, Effect, Damage, Instead, Ask.