

Question: "Should a Christian watch scary movies/horror movies?"

Answer: Movies are a powerful medium and they have a profound impact on culture. And the sad truth is that many movies these days, including those outside the scary "horror" genre, are either completely antithetical to Christian values or at the very least are at odds with God's divine standard of holiness. As for most horror movies, their "entertainment" value often lies in their ability to titillate our youthful desire to be scared witless. The gruesome means by which moviemakers attempt to shock our consciences usually involves an abundance of carnage and bloodshed. The problem is, however, that it takes more and more to shock seared consciences these days, which means the level of depravity is continually on the rise to accommodate our increasing desensitization to hard-core gore and evil. All things considered, true Christians would likely find it difficult enjoying the majority of today's horror movies.

Let's consider the horror movies that delve into the supernatural realm with a particular focus on demonic activity. Scripture makes it clear that our earthly struggle is "against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12). Christians are keenly aware of the evil reality of demons and how every moment of their very real existence is spent trying to "steal, kill and destroy" (John 10:10), or to otherwise separate us from our Savior. As such, this is a subject that should hardly be taken lightly; neither should it be considered a form of "entertainment." If something would offend Jesus Christ, it should offend His children in whom His Holy Spirit resides.

As we mature in our Christian walk, sin and evil should bother us more and more all the time. We are to be beacons of light in an ever-darkening world, striving to live a life that is holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:12). Scripture tells us to be moral and pure, abhorring what is evil and to have our minds focused on things which are noble and pure, lovely and admirable, excellent and praiseworthy (Philippians 4:8), and that "whatever [we] do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). These verses should guide us daily in everything we do, including the movies we choose to see. How can it be possible to "take captive every thought to make it obedient to Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5) when we are at a horror movie laden with murder and mayhem and, essentially, being entertained by the very sins that Jesus Christ died for?

In deciding what movies to watch, perhaps it would be wise to heed the words of the apostle Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians: "Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is *in you*?" (2 Corinthians 13:5 emphasis added). As Christians, we of course know that the Spirit of Christ resides in our hearts (Romans 8:9). He is with us wherever we go. What if, however, rather than occupying a place in our heart, Jesus Christ walked beside us so that we could literally see Him every moment of the day? What effect would this have on our behavior? What if when we went to the movies, for example, we saw Jesus Christ sitting beside us – watching the movie that *we took Him to*? Knowing the divine character of our holy and sinless Savior, and knowing the sanctity He places on the very life He died to give us, what sort of movie would we feel comfortable taking Him to?

Why Christians should abstain from all appearance of evil in horror movies Watching horror movies can give the devil a foothold in your life. We must guard ourselves from opening doorways to the devil all the time because the devil is constantly looking for weak people to attack (1 Peter 5:8). If you open doorway to the devil, there will be a gap in your life that allow the devil to come in and attack you. The devil can jump on the viewer and possess him through the horror characters in the movies.

It can produce bad influence on the viewer. The negative content from the movie can cause the person to become evil and violent. It can impose all kinds of negative influences in the person including hatred, violence, fear and etc. It instills fear and anxiety in the viewer, which is not from God. As the children of God, we should not fear anything except the Lord. God gives us a spirit of power, love and self-discipline, not a spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7). Any other fear comes from the devil. The Holy Spirit, which we receive as a seal of the sonship, gives us peace in our hearts (Romans 8:15).

Some people become fascinated with witchcraft and practice it after watching the movies. Practicing witchcraft is a sin (Galatians 5:19 - 21). We should also abstain ourselves from watching movies that are associated with witchcraft. We must honor God in all that we do (Colossians 3:17). Watching horror movies will not increase your spiritual life so you should not watch them. Watching these movies can lead us away from God. Instead of watching horror movies, we should watch movies that can help us to learn more about God. We should avoid reading horror genre books as well.

The Bible says that we should not have anything to do with the world and demons (Romans 12:2; 1 Cor. 10:20). The devil use movies with horror content to lead people away from Christ. Even if you don't believe in the bad things in the horror movies, you should not watch it. We are not wear clothes or have pictures that show demonic figures. The devil can possess in you through these monstrous figures. We must not wear clothes that show the figure of dragons because Satan is the dragon (Rev. 20:2). Wearing clothes that display the dragon symbol means you are supporting the devil. We are called to live a holy life in Christ. We must be holy for God is holy and cannot tolerate sin (1 Peter 1:16).