

The Grey Areas

Making a Biblical decision about *Twilight*

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A. Introduction

1. I had 7th and 8th grade girls coming to me asking me what I thought of *Twilight*. Was it Ok for a Christian to read the books.
2. Spent a whole class period discussing the book- what was good and right about the lives of the characters in the books and what was wrong.
3. <http://christianteens.about.com/od/christianentertainment/a/TwilightDebate.htm>
4. Compared this book to Harry Potter, Spiderman, Chronicles of Narnia, Lord of the Rings, even Count Dracula from Sesame Street!
5. Spent hours researching the history of vampires- all in an effort to defend the freedom to read what we want as long as it isn't "that bad"

B. The realization

1. I realized I was approaching this from the wrong angle.
2. I was trying to prove and debate how all these movies, books, songs, ect are "not that bad" or "way wrong"
3. There is an objective standard- JESUS
4. We need to look at how scripture addresses the *Grey Areas*

C. The *Grey TEST*- ask yourselves these four questions when deciding whether or not to engage in any activity that is "grey"- video games, movies, music, books, going to certain parties, boyfriend/girlfriends, Facebook, MySpace, ect...

1. Question 1 - Me and God

How is this thing building my relationship with the Lord?

22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law - Galatians 5: 22-23

How does my interest in this area compare with my time invested in my relationship with the Lord?

8Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.- Philippians 4: 8

Am I still putting the Lord first?

2. Question 2- Me and the People Around Me

Is this creating conflict in my family?

22Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 23Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. 24And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 2 Timothy 2: 22-24

Is this creating conflict with others?

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? James 4: 1

Does it offend other believers or is it confusing them in their faith?

1 Corinthians 8: 1-13

1Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. ^[a] Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 2The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. 3But the man who loves God is known by God.

4So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. 5For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), 6yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

7But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. 8But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

9Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. 10For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? 11So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. 12When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. 13Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

What am I saying to my non-Christian friends or what example am I setting for others?

11Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 1 Peter 2: 11

16In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5: 16

6So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, 7rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. 8See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. 9For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form- Colossians 2: 6-9

3. Question 3- The Bible

What does the Bible have to say about this? Who does it glorify-God or Satan? Jesus or the things of the World?

1Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 1 Peter 2: 1-3

1Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual^[a] act of worship. 2Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. 9Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. 18If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Romans 12: 1-2, 9-10, 18

4. Question 4 - Me and Twilight (or whatever applies)

How is this affecting what I think about; my attitude, heart, and mind?

Does it help me to do what is right according to God? Or, does it promote things of the World?

Does it distract me from the Lord and my relationships with others? Serving, praying, reading Bible, ministry etc...

Does it cause me to say, think, or do things that are contrary to Jesus and his life?

Proverbs 6: 16-19

16 There are six things the LORD hates,
seven that are detestable to him:

17 haughty eyes,
a lying tongue,
hands that shed innocent blood,

18 a heart that devises wicked schemes,
feet that are quick to rush into evil,

19 a false witness who pours out lies
and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

Blogger Writes:

Moneik- "Okay, I couldn't possibly be more obsessed with anything else than Twilight. I am not even going to explain cuz I can't even find the words to explain it"

Response:

Dearheart- "Grey is Satan's favorite color. He doesn't like absolutes. He loves lukewarm temperatures, compromises, and wiggle room. It's one of many weapons he uses to lull Christians into a false sense of security about not-so-good things and get them to think "You know, it's not THAT bad....and the Bible doesn't really say anything *specific* about it, so it must be OK." Even if the Bible doesn't say anything specific about it, chances are that if it isn't such a morally good thing in the first place, you should avoid it"

D. Conclusion

1. Jesus gave up his LIFE for you and giving up this one thing in an effort to error on the side of good is not such a big deal.
2. You are a standard for Christ whether you want to be or not. People look at you and justify or judge their own actions based on what you "the Christian" is doing. If reading this book or watching a certain video causes someone weak in the faith or not a believer at all to stumble in their walk or become distracted from what is really important, true, or right than sacrifice your own freedom to do what is best for others. Paul said this is your spiritual act or worship! Paul also said he was free to have a wife and eat certain foods, but he didn't just in case it harmed his witness in anyway even though Paul had the knowledge that it would not affect him personally.
3. I am 27, I could go to a bar and have a nice dinner and I know it would not cause any harm to my relationship with Christ or even my immediate family. But, what if I see a former student there that is struggling with alcoholism and just me being there gives her the "permission" to go to places like bar, and then eventually because the flesh is weak she starts drinking again. That is not a risk I am willing to take. Sacrificing my freedom to go to a bar is a very small

thing in the scope of eternity and it is worth it if it prevents just one person from eternal death!

4. When forced to make a decision that is not clearly spelled out in the Bible, take the Grey Test. That thing MUST pass ALL FOUR questions in order for you to consider engaging in it.
5. Satan loves to make something so huge in your life that it takes the place of Jesus and thus becomes a form of idolatry. (Which is putting something else before the Lord- a violation of the first commandment)