

# Distinguishing Reality From That Which Is Real

- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Sunday PM 09/01/19

## Introduction:

There are a lot of shows on television which falls into the category of "Reality TV." I started to compile a list but there are too many. General categories include:

- 1 Documentary style
  - 1.1 Extraordinary people (That's Incredible, Real People)
  - 1.2 Historical re-creation
  - 1.3 Science
  - 1.4 Dating
  - 1.5 Law enforcement, rescue, and military
  - 1.6 Makeover
  - 1.7 Lifestyle change
  - 1.8 Fantasies fulfilled
  - 1.9 Docusoaps starring celebrities
- 2 Video cameras/hidden camera
- 3 List of reality game shows/reality "playoffs"
  - 3.1 Talent searches

There are the well known "The Bachelorette", "Keeping Up With the Kardashians", "Survivor", "The Bachelor", "Big Brother", "Little People, Big World", "John and Kate Plus 8" and so on. Of course there are the Jerry Springer type shows that offer shock television as nothing is off limits.

**I) The Results of A Lot of Reality TV**

- A) A few days of fame**
- B) People felt abused and angry**
- C) The tearing down of cultural norms and subjects that used to be taboo.**
- D) The downward spiral of looking for the next big hit.**
- E) Example of balloon boy. 2009**

Supposedly this balloon got loose with a six year old boy inside. People watched as the TV cameras showed this balloon for a couple of hours. Eventually it landed after traveling for 50 miles. But then they found out the boy was not inside. It now appears as if the father perpetuated the hoax. This family had been on a number of "reality" television shows and this may have been an attempt to get them their own show.

1. A few days of fame
2. Millions of people felt abused and angry
3. People risked their lives trying to track and catch this balloon
4. All flights from and to the Denver airport were cancelled in order to make sure a plane did not get in the path of this balloon
5. The boy was told to lie about why he was hiding in a box in the house
6. In interviews the next day the little boy got sick, perhaps due to the stress of facing the cameras and being told to lie.

7. The father pleaded guilty to the hoax.
  - a. Sentenced to 90 days in jail, 100 hours community service, the family was banded from making any money from the event, and they were ordered to pay \$36,000 for cost.
  - b. Finally they had to write a letter of apology to all the rescue organizations involved.

## II) **Lessons To Learn From This**

### **A) A lot of what people think is real is not "real"**

1. In the reality TV shows we must keep in mind that most are not "real"
  - a. The cameras changes how people act and respond to each other. I remember with the O.J. Simpson trial and the attempts by lawyers to appeal to the cameras. That is one reason cameras have not been allowed until recently into courtrooms.
  - b. The money connected with the television shows changes for better or worse the lifestyle of the people
  - c. The editing is often done to show conflict or to create a sense of excitement.
  - d. We wind up watching a TV version of reality which is not real.
2. There are a lot of things in life that people think is real but is not really "real"

- a. The idea we can spend ourselves into prosperity and happiness is just one purchase a way is not real.
  - i. The borrower becomes a slave to the lender, *Proverbs 22.7*
  - ii. If you were not happy before you purchased the new item you will not be happy afterward. In other words contentment is not in what we purchase, *Phil. 4.11-12, 1 Timothy 6.8*
  
- b. A pill can solve whatever problems you have. I realize that in some situations medicine can solve a lot of physical and mental problems. But some people believe a pill can make they smarter, have more friends, etc.
  - i. I am talking about the recreational use of drugs. *Proverbs 23.21*
  - ii. Sorcery was linked with the use of drugs, see *Galatians 5.20*
  
- c. The idea one can destroy their own families and still be happy is not real, *Proverbs 11.29; 15.27; 24.3-4*
  - i. The relationship between husband and wife is one where each is to love each other .
  - ii. To think one can then simply betray that love and still be ok is not possible. Genesis 2.24

- iii. True happiness is in that family relationship

**B) What is real is often neglected or considered as being unrealistic**

1. A lot of people will not accept reality
  - a. Remember the show "Who Wants To Marry A Millionaire". The show received some criticism because they selected a millionaire that own apartments and fixed his own plumbing. He drove an ordinary car and was frugal with his money.
  - b. It was not glitzy enough for "reality TV." He should have been driving an expensive sports car and hanging out on the beach or at some fabulous resort.
2. Reality is...
  - a. Christians having everyday mundane problems. Some small and some large.  
*James 1.2*
  - b. You are going to face temptations, *James 1.14; 1 Corinthians 10.11-13*
  - c. We will not live forever, *Psalms 90.10*
  - d. Not everyone is going to go to heaven, *Matthew 7.13-14*
  - e. God condemns false religion no matter how zealous and sincere a person is in their belief, *Colossians 2.20-23*

- f. Material blessings are to be accepted with thanksgiving but spiritual blessings are more important, *1 Timothy 4.4* We should not trade off our spiritual blessings for material things. Not be like the rich young ruler that went away sad because he had many possessions, *Matthew 19.19ff; Mark 10.21* shows how close he was.
- g. Only the faithful will go to heaven, *Matthew 25.21*

### **Conclusion:**

Unfortunately, television often gives us a distorted view of reality. When I was in Russia, I was often asked about what it is like here in the states. They thought it was like the soap operas on TV. We know better because we live here. But what we seen can mislead us. We are told to walk by faith and not by sight; to live by the word of God; to look forward to the hope of heaven. This is what is real. Are you really living in the real world?