



Christians and Harry Potter!

Discuss – Do you think what we take in through the media can shape the world view that we hold?

If so how?

If not why not?

How do you think we as Christians should discern what is right and wrong in the area of media influence?

(For example Lord of the Rings is considered to be a Christian classic while many people question the influence of Harry Potter yet both contain Witchcraft and spell casting?)

So what about Harry Potter and its influence on children if any?

Some details:-

J.K. Rowlings is the author of the Harry Potter series of books. The outline of the story is about a young boy of 11 who finds out that he is in fact a wizard. He is invited to attend a school to train witches and wizards called Hogwarts.

Harry himself is an orphan whose parents – (mother a witch – father a wizard) were murdered by an evil wizard. For the first 11 years, Harry lives with relatives who treat him badly and ban him from any involvement in witchcraft. Yet he finally escapes to go to Hogwarts and fulfil his destiny to become an all powerful wizard.

Those for Harry Potter:- (Discuss these points looking at strength and weakness of each one)

It has to be said that no big leader of the Christian faith has openly criticised these books even though they contain occult practice and activity. Instead many Christian leaders have commended the books and said that there is good moral and Spiritual lessons to be learnt.

Chuck Colson – “Commends Harry and his friends for their courage, loyalty and a willingness to sacrifice for one another, even at risk of their lives.” Colson says, “ the pagan practices that are described in the book are purely mechanical and opposed to the occult. Yes Harry casts spells, reads crystals balls and turns himself into animals – but he does not make contact with the supernatural world!”

Mark Greene – Director of London Institute of Christianity writes

“ It is a real shame that I did not have the privilege of introducing my God daughter to Harry, (she had already read the books.) For Harry is a fine lad from good stock.” ??????? (Good stock his parents were a witch and a wizard?)

Many Christians have let their children read these books and even read them themselves. They say that although the context is one of witchcraft and magic, the moral and spiritual lessons of the stories are ones that should be promoted.

When challenged about the occult aspects of the book many Christians say; well it is a bit of harmless fantasy and does not represent the real world. After all the book is written very well and should be seen from its fantasy background. Harry Potter is absolutely moral because it teaches about the old age struggle between good against evil where good win every time

Discuss – do you think you can portray moral values in a Christian acceptable way using the backdrop of occult activity?
if so why ? If not why not?

Those against Harry Potter:- (Discuss these points and look up bible passages!!)

Those against Harry Potter give a number of reasons why both the books and the film are dangerous to both Christians and society at large.

Firstly – Harry Potter encourages children to embrace and accept witchcraft and spell casting as normal. This then encourages young people to experiment with the occult and long term hard line witchcraft.

Quotes that have been taken to support this view:-

“ I was eager to get to Hogwarts first, because I liked what they learned there and I want to be a witch.”

(Giola Bishop aged 10 after reading the books.)

“ Over the last few years we have had about a 100 kids a month contact us and ask how they might learn to become a witch or wizard. It has got so busy that we have just appointed a youth officer to teach these children the important rules that govern good magic. Most of young people state that they have got interested in witchcraft through films, books and t.v. programs like Harry Potter, Sabrina the teenage witch and Buffy the vampire killer. The majority of these calls have been made by young girls.”

(Media Officer for the Pagan Federation (which includes occult churches, New age fellowships, Druid and Earth religions in its membership.)

J.K Rowlings has said many times herself that she gets loads of letters addressed to :- *Professor Dumbledore, Headmaster of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry*, “*begging to be let into the school to study witchcraft.*” She States,

“ these children are very sad when they find that it is just make believe.”

Secondly – The bible clearly states that witchcraft and the ways of the world are wrong for God’s people.

Deuteronomy Ch 18 v 9 – 13 Leviticus Ch 20 v 6 – 8 Isaiah Ch 5 v 20 – 21 2 Corinthians Ch 6 v 15 – 17

2 Corinthians Ch 10 v 3 – 5 2 Corinthians Ch 11 v 14 – 15 Colossians Ch 2 v 6 – 9 Ephesians Ch 5 v 10 – 12

Romans Ch 12 v 9 The Word of God makes it clear have nothing to do with the works of darkness . Don’t entertain yourself by them or teach your children about them. Far from being harmless Harry Potter and many other influences teach our children to go against the word of God and explore that which is an abomination to Him.

Thirdly – Harry Potter is not a moral book because it promotes lying, cheating and even cursing people with bad things if they stand in your way. Anyone in the book who does not believe or accept magic is ridiculed and insulted by the main characters.

This often becomes the attitude that the children take on when parents and others criticise these books.

Fourthly – Harry Potter is just another medium that Satan is using to entice the young and innocent away from God!!

Quote – The premiere of “Harry Potter the movie,” will lead a whole new generation of youngsters into discovering witchcraft and wizardry. Increasing numbers of children are spending hours alone browsing the internet in search of satanic websites and we are concerned that no one is monitoring this growing fascination. (Peter Smith –General Secretary of the British Associa-