

# The King's Highway

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### Evil Communications

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Among all the advances which have characterized the past seventy-five years none has been more significant than the startling developments in the field of communications. What is accepted as commonplace today would have seemed to be but the wildest flight of fancy to those of a few generations ago. Those who are experts in the field of electronics declare in all soberness that what has been accomplished is but the merest beginnings of what will soon come to pass. The vacuum tube which is the heart of present-day instruments is very soon to give way to the little transistor which will vastly reduce the bulk and electrical consumption of all electronic devices. Handbag radios, pocket-size recorders, miniature hearing aids and picture-frame television sets are now in the laboratory and on the sales counter. Wire-tapping devices have reached such a state of perfection as to become a national problem. Conversations can now be drawn from telephone lines without any physical connection. Conference rooms where highly secret political and military matters are discussed have to be constantly inspected lest they be "bugged" and valuable information be made available to enemy ears.

On the face of it, this great advance in communications would seem to be a real advance for the human family. But since the mouth can but speak from the abundance of the heart it can readily be seen that all communications partake of and transmit the moral nature of the sender. Thus while Solomon could say that "a good report maketh the bones fat" the Apostle Paul warned that "evil communications corrupt good manners." It is highly significant that God in his wisdom scattered and isolated the human family lest it destroy itself before his age-long purposes would have had opportunity to ripen. It is an open secret that as the facilities for communication have increased the element of danger has been augmented.

These observations should not be interpreted as a plea for a return to smoke signals or the pony express but rather to set up some greatly needed safeguards and standards. Inasmuch as all instruments of communication are just that and nothing more they cannot be condemned as such. Such blanket condemnation would rule out the telephone and telegraph while grounding even the carrier pigeon. But as a matter of practical import, is it always wise to allow every means of communication to flourish in the home? This is a question which should engage the most prayerful attention of all those who are in earnest to lead their households to a holy heaven.

The latest great development in this field is of course the television. As a mere medium of thought and action

it has no character of its own but we venture to assert that the great majority of homes which have installed it have done so to the hurt, and in some cases, the eternal undoing of souls. This uncanny combination of sight and sound so completely captivates the eye and ear that the evil communications which bulk so largely in the programs corrupt the very essence of the soul. The "unclean and hateful birds" mentioned in the Bible are now roosting on the vast majority of television antennas in America. Crime, sensuality and worldly desire fill the eyes and ears and inevitably deteriorate the fabric of the soul. The Christ who placed the impure look on the same level at the impure act is the Christ before whose Judgment Seat the race will one day stand.

Once when the writer was in a great municipal zoo he was deeply instructed by the following incident. Some mischievous boys were engaged in the dubious sport of teasing one of the animals. Its cry of fear and rage soon communicated like feelings in all the other animals and soon the entire zoo was in an uproar. Today in America the lust, fear and foolishness of a few hearts are being transmitted to the listening and watching millions. Many professing Christians are thus "walking in the counsel of the ungodly" who would not dream of personal association with such characters. And yet just what and where is the difference between being absorbed by the antics of folks on the TV screen and standing on the corners in personal and familiar conversation with the same people? Many homes do not have sufficient unanimity or spiritual and moral control to install a TV.

The hunter's rifle cannot be condemned as such but the wise father knows that the very strictest regulation if not outright removal is necessary if tragedy is to be averted. Carelessness here has resulted in the deepest sorrow for some homes. Likewise, "unclean and hateful birds" of lustful and worldly programs must not be allowed to roost on the radio or TV antenna. If, through various causes, these bringers of plague and filth persist in flocking around it might even be necessary to remove the roosting place entirely.

The age of mass communication is upon us with more startling developments to follow and this problem of TV, and even radio for that matter, cannot be lightly dismissed. The eye and ear are still the gateway of the soul and if damaging and defiling things are admitted a defiled soul is the inevitable result. Those who allow "evil communications" to "corrupt the good manners" of the heart and home will one sad day face a most terrible accounting.

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