



#17

Theme: Today's Culture

Scripture: Romans 8:12 (NIV)

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

A Thought:

Lady Gaga verses Rihanna..."Move Over, Gaga! Rihanna Is the New Queen of Facebook" read one of the popular on-line blogs. Why the hoopla? Gaga the Mother Monster as her followers know her...was out "tweeted" by the "pop singer" 23-year old Rihanna. Over 40 million followers follow Rihanna surpassing Lady Monster by 10 million fans. The fan base - guess who? The following are lyrics from Gaga's "Juda-as" and Rihanna's "Man's Down" respectively: Gaga: *"Oh, oh - I'm in love with Juda-as, I'm just a Holy fool, oh baby, it's so cruel. - I couldn't love a man so purely...even prophets forgave his crooked way. I wanna love you, But something's pulling me away from you - Jesus is my virtue and Judas is the demon I cling to."* Rihanna: *"I didn't mean to end his life - What started out as a simple altercation - turned into a real sticky situation. I took his heart when I pulled that gun.....Rum papa pum - man down."* I have never heard of Rihanna until recently and I did see Monster Mom on 60 Minutes. What irony, other than her attire she came off not only normal (whatever that is today) Lady Gaga was articulate and somewhat charming. Now, in today's secular and social media society I am considered an old fogey. I do agree that every generation has its Gaga and Rihanna. So what? As Christians (young and old) should we jump on the trash assembly line that leads to a pile of stinky heap? Let us please the Lord....Ephesians 5:8-9(NIV) *"For you were once in darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness righteousness and truth)."*

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- Men - How often do you discuss “stuff” with your children?
- Are you “listening” to your children? Even “silence” is noise!
- Do you talk about the heart of Jesus to your children? No sermons!
- Are you personally caught up in today’s worldview mores?

Scriptures to read:

- Ephesians 5:8-9; Romans 8:12; Proverbs 4:10-19; 1 Peter 2:11; 2 Col.2:8;
- 1 Peter 1:13-16; Philippians 3:2; Philippians 4:8-9

Quote: John W. Whitehead, Christian Post Contributor - article, “Lady Gaga”
“Clearly, there are trade-offs in every relationship, and Lady Gaga is no exception. However, while Gaga gets stardom, wealth and affirmation out of her young fan base, it is not without a certain amount of trepidation that one wonders what her little monsters are getting in return.”

Bottom Line: I mentioned this Bottom Line theme to some friends - one person told me with an apologetic tone that her niece had taken her eight year old daughter to a Gaga concert. Let’s be realistic....if the “80 million plus tweet followers” report is true it would be reasonable to note that there are a tremendous number of young Christian folks in the midst jumping and screaming to their heart’s delight. The fact is that the on-going sexualization in our culture today is at an all-time high. This year’s Super Bowl with San Francisco and Kansas City was a great match. Very few viewers except the die-hards will remember who won the game. But for years to come they will talk about the half-dressed performers J. LO and Shakira gyrations. We face a parental challenge and behold it is a tremendous challenge. Read God’s word, (1 John 2:15-17) *“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but who ever does the will of God lives forever.”* (NIV) Gents, do you know what your children read, watch and listen to? If not, in this case silence is not a virtue.

NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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