

What Won't You Do?

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While the terms “choice” and “rights” have their proper place in a free society, they also serve to cloak an agenda of unrestrained evil. Whenever certain behaviors are called into question, the knee-jerk response goes something like this: “*Censorship! I have the constitutional right to produce and distribute whatever I choose. It’s a free country.*”

But the deeper issue is not that of *government*-imposed restrictions but *self*-imposed limits of decency and principle. Ken Auletta, a media critic for *The New Yorker* magazine, presented this simple question to several Hollywood moguls concerning their music and movies: “*What won’t you do?*” That is, are there **any** self-imposed limits upon what you will sell to the public? The responses were not surprising considering the profane, sexually explicit, and morally degenerate trash that is already peddled as entertainment.

Michael Eisner, Oliver Stone and Rupert Murdoch were among those asked, “What won’t you do?” Each counterattacked with a diatribe against censorship. But when reminded that *self*-restraint was the issue, still no positive answer was forthcoming.

The non-answers were really answers themselves. The fact is that most entertainment executives seem to have **no** standards by which to reject material as offensive, dangerous, corrupting or otherwise unsuitable for publication.

Mr. Auletta noted “an inordinate amount of squirming as individuals strove to justify what they do. I had a sense that few had given a moment’s thought to the disjunction between their business and personal selves. So they resorted to denouncing critics as proponents of censorship.”

The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble.
(Prov 4:19)

The unsettling, growing realization about our society is that it is rapidly becoming *standardless*. Fewer and fewer behaviors are repugnant, intolerable and “off-limits.” Absolutely *nothing* is unworthy of filming, printing or recording. And as it is broadcast in theaters, concert halls, magazines and newspapers under the banner of “rights,” everyone is afraid to admit what is *really* wrong: rights and choice unfettered by moral and spiritual responsibility will destroy a nation.

How rigorous are **your** standards of what you will accept from these companies which have no moral scruples?

[The above information was taken from an article by John Leo in the *Birmingham News*, 8/19/97.]