

Movie House Madness!

June 22, 2003

Forget what's happening on the movie screen, the action is occurring right in the cinema complex! This week, our local newspaper carried a story about the escalating unpleasantness of trying to watch a movie at our local cinema. Here are some examples..."fistfights between dueling couples, entire movies being translated (loudly) into Spanish from one viewer to another, and a couple having sex during "My Best Friend's Wedding"... last week an alleged assault occurred when two people kept talking through the previews. Police said they plan to bring the matter before a judge."

The three main problems seem to be

- (1) Cell phones that constantly go off - a woman recently told me her husband got physically threatened when he asked someone to shut off his phone in the theater.
- (2) Conversations during the movie - one fellow sat next to a couple who talked all through a movie and when the movie ended, he found them in the lobby and said, "please remember my face, and never sit near me again in this theater!"
- (3) Babies and little children screaming or crying during movies they should never be allowed to see - "when I see people bring 18-month olds and two year olds to very loud, violent movies, it's pretty disturbing."

Are we really that surprised? Manners, social graces, sound judgment, good parenting - all of these things are becoming less and less a part of our cultural fabric. As a society we are becoming more and more selfish each and every day - it's all about my rights and my entitlements. Forget about walking a mile in someone else's shoes - I want my matching designer shoes and I'll take three pairs if you please.

What's sad of course is how far we have drifted from the Judeo-Christian view of life represented by the 10 Commandments and so eloquently summed up by Jesus in what we call the "Golden Rule" - "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." (Matt. 7:12) The idea of thinking of someone else's needs before your own has become so foreign to this culture, it's almost passed into the realm of political incorrectness. What's politically correct

these days is to be selfish and if you don't believe me, just check out the magazine titles at your local CVS ("Self"; "More"; etc.)

I guess this now officially makes me an old curmudgeon and I'm only 53 years old! But you know what, I'm on the side of the angels on this one. Guess I'll just stay home and watch movies on my VCR or DVD player.