

## **Sex, Rock'n'Roll, and the NFL**

No, I did not watch the Super Bowl half-time show, but boy have I heard about it! The Ten Commandments may be offensive, but Matt Drudge says that top CBS executives approved the musical skit where Janet Jackson exposed partial nudity. "The decision to go forward went to the very top of the network [CBS]," said a well placed source in New York.

The groundbreaking scene came during the most-watched television broadcast of the year. Ninety million tuned in from around the world.

Following the outcry, CBS sought to distance itself from the show: "CBS deeply regrets the incident that occurred during the Super Bowl halftime show. We attended all rehearsals throughout the week and there was no indication that any such thing would happen. The moment did not conform to CBS broadcast standards and we would like to apologize to anyone who was offended." Since when has CBS given any indication that it has any standards in the first place?!

Further, NFL Executive Vice President Joe Browne said regarding the halftime show: "We are extremely disappointed by elements of the MTV-produced Halftime show. They were totally inconsistent with assurances our office was given about the show. It's unlikely that MTV will produce another Super Bowl Halftime." What else would you expect from MTV which displays its creative genius by such mind expanding scenes as having a grown man riding a tricycle around piles of human feces? I guess CBS will play it safe next time by sticking with the half nude cheerleaders, vulgar beer commercials, and the Victoria's Secrets lingerie exhibits!

The real outrage should be directed at the pathetic churches who dare to claim that their Super Bowl Parties are really evangelistic outreaches. Even harder to believe is that professing evangelical churches would stoop to model their "Youth Ministries" after the MTV format. I just received a mailing advertising tips on how to convert your youth program to an "MTV style" approach. No, this was not from the World Council of Churches—it was an "evangelical" ministry. What we used to call "liberal" is now mainstream evangelicalism.

Recently I heard that 42% of Christian young people watch MTV. It's about time the timid, emasculated pastorettes stopped hiding behind their broadminded "amoral" rationalizations. Is there any question that their silence and compromise

has contributed to a moral decadence in the church which is identical to that found in the world? The title Rock'n'Roll depicts an illicit sex act and it was not a right-wing fundie who coined that expression. The people who created the genre are the ones who made the connection between sex, drugs, and Rock'n'Roll. They were bold in proclaiming what they were all about.

Scandal after Major League scandal, Sunday after Sunday of desecrating the Lord's Day, the undeniable association with the alcohol producers to name a few, call into question how a follower of Christ can sanction such activities as innocent entertainment. Does anyone other than me believe that "sports" occupies too large a place in contemporary Christianity? Can the obsession be labeled anything other than idolatry?

Idolatry always leads to immorality. CBS can wait—it's time for judgment to begin at the house of God!

By the way, how is it the early church had a world changing impact without gymnasiums attached to their sanctuaries? Oh, I forgot. They did not have sanctuaries; all they had was the power of the Holy Ghost!

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