



# BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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In 2014, we celebrated the Jackie Robinson-West Little League team as the National and Regional Little League Champions. These young heroes are from various social and economic backgrounds. Some are from single-parent homes, some live in dysfunctional families, and some now have the opportunity and encouragement to go on to college and achieve even greater accomplishments. At the climax of the team's popularity, however, it was discovered that some team members lived outside the team's boundaries. There is no question that the adults involved in managing this team had knowledge of the rules required for team participation. Consequently, the team was stripped of its title. *Credibility!*

Last month Brian Williams, news anchor for Channel 5, announced that he is temporarily stepping away from the NBC *Nightly News* amidst questions about the accuracy of his stories of war coverage in Iraq. He said it was "painfully apparent" that he had become a distracting news story. NBC's *Nightly News* has been the top-rated evening newscast, but now the station is trying to determine how to best deal with the issue that has potential to damage its *credibility!*

The New England Patriots, our 2015 Super Bowl champs, played an incredible game during this year's Super Bowl, but not even they could avoid the credibility question. In the first half of the game leading to the Super Bowl, 11 deflated footballs were discovered by the referees. *Credibility!*

Credibility is defined by Webster as being believed or accepted as true, real, or honest. It is powerful because it deals with a person's integrity, character, and who

they are, especially when no one is watching them. It is not a twenty-first century concept. The lack of it has been a problem even in Bible times. Abraham, who Scripture records as a friend of God (James 2:23), told Pharaoh that Sarah was his sister instead of his wife in an effort to save his life. Later in Scripture we see the man David, who was considered a man after God's own heart, plotting to take a man's life to cover up his sin (2 Samuel 11:15).

The Bible is very clear about sin. Romans 6:23 reminds us that the wages of sin is death! But since God considers all unrighteousness to be sin, we all, according to Romans 3:23, "have sinned and come short of the glory of God." We have all missed the mark set by God. Standing before God, it is only through the blood of Jesus Christ that we have any semblance of credibility. We have all messed up before a holy and righteous God.

## CREDIBILITY

So does this mean that it is okay to dismiss the leadership of the Jackie

Robinson-West team? Does this mean that it is okay to dismiss the poor judgment of Mr. Williams? No, no, no! What about Abraham, David, and even Jacob, who stole his brother's precious birthright (Gen. 25:31)? The answer is still no! The Word of God never encourages us to sin. In fact, in Romans 6:1 we are told "by no means" to continue in sin!

If we mess up and our credibility is on the line and we stand before God ashamed of our actions, the good news is God still loves us. However, this article by no means dismisses us from the need to be credible. Instead it should remind us of the importance of credibility in our dealings with others. Our service is to a merciful God who calls us to live a life of credibility.

Because of His credibility,  
Dr. L.W. Edwards





**Q:** How can Christians influence the moral quality of the media entertainment produced by Hollywood?

**A:** It is obvious that the entertainment industry has a strong influence on culture — an influence strong enough to draw 43.7 million Americans to watch the Academy Awards in 2014. Hollywood’s pervasive influence is readily apparent in cultural perceptions of fashion, family relationships, faith, philosophy, politics, and everything in between. Sadly, our world isn’t the better for it. In a world and for a time such as this, Christians have a divine mandate to be salt and light. The good news is, holding up the light and adding flavor to our culture is easier than it seems.

Here are seven ways you can exert a godly influence on Hollywood:

1. Resist the temptation to compromise in entertainment choices. David said in Psalm 101:3, *I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes; I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.* When it is unclear what to expect from a new movie or television show, exercise wisdom and read Christian media reviews such as Plugged In and Movieguide before watching movies and television programs. These resources will give you enough information to make an educated decision.
2. Pray for actors, actresses, producers, and television networks. Hollywood is more than an entertainment hub; it is a mission field composed of people — real people — with needs, emotions, feelings, and souls thirsting for satisfaction and purpose. In a word, these people need Christ. When we pray for them, we demonstrate Christ’s love and become part of the solution, inviting God to work miraculously in their hearts and lives.  
  
Make a difference by joining [Mastermedia International](#) and [The Hollywood Prayer Network](#) as they pray for Hollywood.
3. Address offensive content or messages within films and television shows in a biblical way. Go directly to the producer or television network with your grievances. Express your concern in a spirit of love and humility in an effort to persuade (not punish) your audience. I repeat: express your concern in a *gentle and loving* way. Try not to come across as . . . >>>[Keep Reading](#)



Please keep Dr. Edwards and Cameron in your prayers as they will be participating in *God’s Masterpiece*, a Passion play, at Bethel Baptist Church April 3—5.

Pray for Cameron as he has the first in a series of monthly piano concerts for 2015 on Saturday, March 28, at 2 p.m. The concert will be held at Greencastle Assisted Living Facility: 445 E Main St, Barrington, IL 60010

Dr. Edwards is available to speak at churches and special events. Contact him if you would like to have him as your special guest.  
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