

## *Denying What We Affirm*

According to a report published in the new *Think* magazine, published by Focus Press, Hollywood made 12 times as many R-rated movies as G-rated movies from 1989-2003. However, studies show that G-rated movies were 11 times more profitable than R-rated movies. Movie producers may affirm that they make movies that the public wants and movies that are most profitable to the industry, but the facts show that the average PG-rated movie performed three times better than the average R-rated film. The evidence shows that Hollywood has a Godless agenda and thus it denies what it affirms.

The same denying what it affirms principle was practiced by the Pharisees of Jesus' day. They affirmed loyalty to and love for God, but they denied their claim by practicing injustice toward their fellows (Matthew 23) and by condemning Jesus, an innocent man, to death. The Jews of the first century affirmed devotion to the Law of God, but denied their claim by following their own ways (Romans 10:1-3).

Today the principle of denying what one affirms may be seen among God's people. One may affirm the importance of the worship assemblies of the church and then deny the claim by forsaking the assembly (Hebrews 10:25). One may affirm loyalty to the authority of Scripture and then deny the claim by following a personal agenda. One may affirm God's ownership of all that he has and then deny it by covetousness and a failure to give liberally in support of the work of the church. One may affirm the power and importance of the cross of Christ and then deny the claim by a failure to deny himself and to take up his own cross and follow Jesus (Matthew 16:24-26). One may affirm his desire to follow Christ by emphasizing what Jesus said in the gospels and then deny his claim by neglecting or rejecting what Christ said through the apostles in the New Testament epistles (I Corinthians 14:37; I John 4:6). One may affirm his concern for unity in the church and then deny his affirmation by sowing discord among brethren by promoting his own agenda. One may affirm his love for all men but deny his claim by practicing racism. One may affirm that he wants the church to grow and then deny it by practices that cause the church to decline. One may "*profess to know God, but by . . . deeds . . . deny Him . . . being . . . disobedient*" (Titus 1:16). It's something to think about: denying what we affirm.

—Jay Lockhart