

Pop Culture vs. Scripture

The messages that we receive from the culture are very influential. Advertisers and movie and television producers are promoting an agenda. If we think they are just trying to tell us nice stories, we are deceived. One of the most prominent messages in media that might be labeled “inspirational” is the notion of following your heart or your dreams. According to pop culture and pop psychology, this is the ultimate aim in a fulfilled life.

Part 1

The following lyrics come from a song called “Follow Your Heart” from *Cinderella 2*. For each verse, describe how the ideas presented line up with Scripture, and identify any passages that would provide support for your description.

Who’s to say the rules
Must stay the same forevermore?
Whoever made them had to change
The rules that came before

So make your own way
Show the beauty within
When you follow your heart
There’s no heart you can’t win

So reach for the sky
It’s not high as it seems
Just follow your heart
Go as far as your dreams

Dare if you want to
Don’t fear you’ll fall
Take a chance ‘cause it’s better
Than never to chance it at all

There’s a world for the changing
And you’ve just begun
Don’t let them tell you
It’s simply not done
When you follow your heart
You’ll shine bright as the sun

Part 2

The following is an excerpt from the movie *Fireproof*. Answer the questions after the dialogue.

Caleb: What? You were married to someone before Tina?

Michael: For one whole year. I got married for the wrong reasons, then I turned around and got a divorce for the wrong reasons. Man, I thought I was just following my heart.

Caleb: Michael, I have worked with you for 5 years. You've never told me that.

Michael: Because I'm not proud of it! It was before I gave my life to the Lord. Man, I was only concerned about my rights and my needs. Man, I ruined her life. But when I gave my life to God, I tried to find her, but she'd already remarried. So believe me when I tell you, I've got a big scar. Man, God meant marriage to be for life. That's why you gotta keep your vows to Catherine. You gotta beg God to teach you to be a good husband. And don't just follow your heart, man; 'cause your heart can be deceived. But you gotta lead your heart.

1. How had Michael's view of his heart changed?

2. What influenced his counsel to Caleb?

3. Do you agree or disagree with Michael? Why?