

I'd like to voice my opposition to any proposed changes in indecency standards that would permit more expletives and nudity, even if brief or fleeting. There are two reasons:

1) Every regulatory agency or body derives its ultimate authority from God -- whether that authority's leadership acknowledges the fact or not. Thus, all of us ought to consider the nature and responsibilities of our relationship to each other based not on the changing winds of social customs, but rather on the basis of principles that have defined our country from its beginning.

Indeed, at times like this, it's helpful to consult the Bible to see what our Creator -- the one referenced in our Declaration of Independence -- had to say about authorities and people like me who are under authority. Here is what it says:

"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right." 1 Peter 2:13-14.

My job as a citizen is to submit. Your job as a regulator is to use your authority to punish those who do wrong and commend those who do right.

If you can relax indecency standards and you truthfully believe that by doing so you are fulfilling your God-given role, then by all means do it. Do it and be proud of your decision. You've made a worthy contribution to our nation and to our future.

If you can't relax the standards on that basis, then I'd urge you to do the difficult thing and take a stand against the moneyed interests who may be pressuring you to compromise. Who knows, you may have been called to your position to take a difficult stand for just such a time as this.

2) As a father and grandfather, I'd urge you to take a stand against any relaxation of standards because of the young ones in our nation for whom I deeply care. As you know, there are adults behind these relaxation initiatives who care nothing about our children -- how these kids develop, or the images and words they carry with them into adulthood. Tragically, the dangers these adults present should be obvious and yet in our culture, we can so easily overlook the risks they present.

We need our FCC regulators to stand between our children and those who would exploit them. The seeds that we, as a nation, sow today into the minds of our children largely determine what we reap from them as parents tomorrow. Today's children already see and hear more than enough violence and sex and expletives. What do we expect to gain by exposing them to more? There would be no point unless we're simply selling out our morals -- and our children -- to the highest bidder.

Again, if you believe it's in our children's best interests to expose them to more filth on our public airwaves, then by all means do so. Relax the standards even more than you are being asked to do.

If not, then make the difficult and unpopular choice to protect what little innocence may yet remain in our culture. We may yet be able to stand with our kids 20 or 30 years from now, look them in the eye, and tell them we did the right thing for them and their children.

Thank you.

Don Grassmann