

I am in full support of the decision to loosen censorship on television.

Everyone knows what butts look like and hearing \*beep\* instead of "fuck" does not change what we truly hear or the message being broadcast. As an American citizen, but also a member of the international community (as we all are), I can't help but feel embarrassed that we treat ourselves like children and perpetuate our outward and self image as a people incapable of handling the explicit depiction of something we still recognize in full in it's censored form; this is, in short, plain immaturity. When mature adults hear a "bad word" or see breasts, they are unfazed by what has become at this point in their lives trivial. I am tired of living in a country that reacts to these things like children and self-perpetuates its own irrational hatred and fear of anything you couldn't say or show to a five-year-old.

We are all of us perfectly comfortable with these things behind closed doors, and it is a product of group-think that causes us to pretend en masse that we are instead uncomfortable with them. We think we are uncomfortable because we tell ourselves we are. We hide them from others because we think they are "bad," and we think they are "bad" because others have hidden them from us.

Our unreasoned censorship, whose scope is so outlandishly specific to the realm of the explicitly sexual (whilst leaving unscathed content that is violent, suggestive, or simply socially abhorrent i.e. reality television), either fails to "protect" us enough or more likely is inconsistent and ineffective well into (and beyond) pointlessness. The FCC needs to stop institutionalizing the paranoia of a loud minority who believe any of us may somehow be damaged by witnessing something taboo.

It is the last saving grace of those who oppose the de-censorship of words and nudity that we must "guard" our children from them. The plain truth is that nothing they will see on television will be "new" to them; they all know what butts and nipples look like and they all know what it means when they hear \*beep\*, and if they are watching a show or a network that shows nudity or says bad words, there is a far bigger issue there than the fact that the nudity or bad words aren't censored, and furthermore chances are high that such a show or a network is going to have content in it which would not be censored and is far less appropriate for a child.

The bottom line is that this superficial level censorship does nothing to "protect" them even if such dangers truly exist. If they are in any danger of learning something damning and damaging, it will not be from the sight of a body or the sound of a word, but from the message that they may convey or the context in which they are observed. You can censor the words and the body parts, but if these elements are used in a way that is going to influence a child negatively, I promise you that child is smart enough to get the message anyway. This is all, of course, under the assumption that there is damage to be done, and of course if there is, nudity and bad words are not going to be the agents of this damage. Under current censorship regulations, someone saying the phrase "If someone offers

you drugs, tell them to go fuck themselves!" would be censored, but a show, perhaps of a realistic nature (wink, wink), depicting people celebrating alcohol and drug use while behaving in the most despicable, obnoxious, and embarrassing fashion imaginable would make it straight through the filter of the FCC (unless of course someone said "fuck" while they were doing it. Then it would get censored and our kids would be completely saved from negative influences).

Clearly, if censorship is our aim, we really missed the mark, and while those who would disagree with me would be happy to take my examples as a means to encourage us to censor even more, it is my belief that the FCC is smart enough to see that if we really did want to make it our business to censor television to the point that every last thing is truly acceptable viewing material for children, we would have to censor things beyond what is reasonable or acceptable. We would have to go beyond obfuscating the content and instead completely remove almost all of it, and that is just simply ridiculous.

If for no other reason, I support the de-censorship of these elements of television because even if there was a danger to protect ourselves or our children from, our current measures do absolutely nothing to that end, and as I assume it costs money to take the measures we currently do, I deem it a waste. We would be better off putting box fans in front of our televisions in the hopes that they will blow the negative influences out the window.

Furthermore we would not, as some believe, be facilitating the descent of America into debauchery and hellish immorality that will irrevocably damage our country, as our transition into reduced media censorship would only bring us up to date with almost all other "Western" countries, and most especially Canada and the United Kingdom whom we consider our most direct counterparts. You will note that their children and citizens are not deranged maniacs and these countries are, in fact, doing just fine.