MOVIE REVIEW: Night of the Living Dead (1968)



Night of the Living Dead

- **GENRE:** Zombie Horror
- **ACTORS:** Duane Jones, Judith O'Dea, Karl Hardman, Marilyn Eastman, Keith Wayne, Judith Ridley, Adam Knox
- **DIRECTOR:** George A. Romero
- **RATING:** Unrated
- **PARENTAL NOTE:** *Not intended for children. Extreme violence. Zombie mayhem and gore.*
- **INTENDED AUDIENCE:** *This movie is intended for fans of the genre, and may not be appreciated by others.*
- **GENERAL PLOT:** (No spoilers) A group of dissimilar people end up in a remote farmhouse fighting the zombie horde. Can they survive the zombie onslaught—and themselves?

- **REVIEW:** Some people[1. Tom Truex] will tell you that *Night of the Living Dead* is the most important movie in the most impotant sub-genre (zombie) of the most important movie genre (horror). This film would be laughable if released today. But in 1968, it was completely groundbreaking. It has really defined the genre for the hundreds (perhaps thousands) of zombie movies which followed. This film defined the zombie as we know it—a slow, lumbering[2. Recent films, such as the 2004 remake of *Dawn of the Dead* show us fast moving

zombies—an abomination to the "zombie purist." Frankly, I welcome the fast moving zombie, which in my view is more lethal, and hence more scary] killing machine. Move too slow, get bit, and you too can join the zombie way of life (or death, or *undead*). Anyway, back to this movie: if you can get past it being in black and white, and the overacting, it remains a pretty scary movie. I've seen *Night of the Living Dead* so many times that I don't jump any more. But for the first time viewer, the suspense, the horror, and the over the top gore are sure to thrill.

- **RECOMMENDATION:[2. If you wonder why zombie themes and horror films have space on a Christian website like K_Line Christian Online, please see my blog post on point]** *This is a zombie horror movie—though admittedly somewhat tame by comparison to current zombie movies. Many people will be highly offended by every movie in this genre because of the graphic violence, gore, language and other questionable elements. However, if you are a fan of this genre*—you have to respect this groundbreaking work of art for the great movie that it is.
- **RATING (out of 5 stars):** ★★★★★★