

Social Networking ... and Christianity

Franklin Church of Christ
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AM Worship

Introduction:

Facebook

MySpace

Youtube

Twitter

Pleonast

Addthis

Typepad

Blogger



Classmates

Reunion

Epinions

Myfamily

Hi5

Imbee

Flickr

LinkedIn

- A. There are more than 400 Social networking sites on the internet today.
- B. The fastest growing of these sites: Facebook, with more than 500 million active users; 5th largest population worldwide with continued exponential growth.
- C. The average user spends more than 32 minutes a day on Facebook alone.
- D. So, what does Social networking have to do with Christianity?
 1. Sermons: exhorting/warning of the potential ills associated with T.V., books, music.
 2. The difference with social networking: social interactivity.
 3. In essence it is “real” relationships via the virtual world.
- E. We look at how social networking is affecting us and what we can do about it.

Discussion:

- I. It Is Addicting
 - A. It is shiny (new): learning how to navigate
 - B. It is exciting: keeping track of all your “new” friends; learning how to make posts with the various options.
 - C. After your successful writing (“blog” or “post”) there is typical anxiety to see who has viewed/responded to your post(s).
 - D. Eventually for some the whole experience consumes your mind, time, energy.
 - E. Soon you become a “pro” or “veteran”.
 - F. Like anything else: some aren’t addicted, others are ... and to varying degrees.
- II. It Encourages Self-Centeredness
 - A. Christians (aka people who needed to be saved from their sins) – have a biblical need to rid self and gain Christ. Cp. **Gal. 2:20**
 - B. While social network is about relationships much of the focus is posting about *me* (“MySpace”); concept of Twitter.
- III. A Breeding Ground For Gossip
 - A. Social Networking posts are typically spontaneous writings.
 - B. Many type without thinking...and simply hit ENTER.
 - C. While some posts are deleted...many are left for the world to see your true fleshly nature... and where your true treasure rests. **Prov. 18:7; Matt. 19:21**

IV. What We Can Do About It

- A. Sin lies at the door...its desire is for you... you must rule over it. cp. **Gen. 4:7**
- B. Determine to only have one Master... and Facebook is not it. **Matt. 6:24; 2 Pet. 2:19**
- C. If your right hand (social networking) causes you to sin cut it off (cancel your account). **Matt. 5:30**
- D. Let me be clear: social networking is not sinful in and of itself – in fact, it can be edifying.
- E. Current relationships can be enhanced in the same way we use the phone or mail.
- F. Use the *Golden Rule* online: Love God and your neighbor (spiritual netiquette). **Matt. 22:37-39**
- G. Ultimately, create posts that praise God or encourages others to praise Him. **1 Cor. 10:31**

Conclusion:

- A. If you are going to be involved with Social Networking, use it to God's glory.
- B. Realize and fulfill your walk with Christ in all things you do. **Col. 3:17**