

Facebook and the Christian

Introduction

1. **Christians today have many more things that have surfaced in the world that we must be aware and careful of.**
 - A. **Although many things in life are not sinful in themselves, we must understand that they can become sinful and may lead us into sin.**
 - 1) **One of those things that we must be careful of is the very popular social networking website called Facebook.**
2. **Facebook is now connecting more than 600 million people worldwide and many Christians have Facebook pages.**
 - A. **Facebook can be a great benefit or it can be a great detriment to our spiritual life. When beginning to use this social networking site, please remember who's friend you really are and think about these key Bible passages:**

John 15:14 You are My friends **if you do whatever I command you.**

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are **true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are of **good report**, if there is **any virtue** and if there is **anything praiseworthy** — **meditate on these things.**

1 John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him **purifies himself**, just as He is pure.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people**, that you may **proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;**

1 Peter 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, **that you should follow His steps:**

Facebook: An Effective Tool For Christ

- 1. One can use Facebook as a very effective means to sharing the gospel of Christ with millions of people.**
 - A. There are various ways in which this social medium may be used to help others think about their salvation.**
 - 1) Posting daily scripture readings**
 - 2) Posting spiritual songs with comments**
 - 3) Posting regular Bible study articles and links to study material and blogs that teach others about Christ**
 - 4) Posting links to various congregational websites and information to let others know about upcoming gospel meetings**
 - 5) Posting and hosting Bible study groups**
 - B. These types of efforts are to be commended as they help to spread the gospel of Christ and show others that we have a godly influence for truth and righteousness.**

Facebook: A Danger to Christianity

1. **As good as Facebook can be for the Christian, I have seen much more often than not, that most Christians cannot be seen any differently than the millions of others on Facebook.**
 - A. **In many cases, had I not already known that the individual was a Christian, I would never have guessed that was the case! Why? Because I can clearly see several sins openly exposed on this social networking site.**
 - 1) **Arrogance**
 - 2) **Anger**
 - 3) **Hate**
 - 4) **Gossip**
 - 5) **Backbiting**
 - 6) **Immodesty**
 - 7) **Profanity and Euphemisms**
 - 8) **Promoting TV programs, Movies, and Music as “favorites” when these things are filled with filthy language, and immorality**
 - B. **Christians are accepting these and other sins of others instead of exposing them**

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, **but rather expose them.**

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,** giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Facebook: The Dangers to the Christian

1. **False sense of freedom from accountability.**
 - A. **The keystrokes that are typed into this social network under the guise of “keeping it real” or “just being yourself” is not always a good thing.**
 - 1) **Are we making sure that our “words” and “meditation of our heart” are acceptable to God?**
 - 2) **Some things should never be thought of or spoken.**

Psalms 19:14 Let the **words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart** **Be acceptable in Your sight**, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

Matthew 12:35-37 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for **every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.** **For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."**

Ephesians 4:29 **Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth**, but what is good for necessary edification, **that it may impart grace to the hearers.**

2. A removal of moral restraints.

A. Does Facebook give one the feeling that moral restraints do not apply when posting, or do the postings on Facebook indicate that one's moral restraints have already been removed. It may be both.

1) Either way – the result is sin and disgrace!

a) There are many photos of Christians who are immodestly dressed and this provocatively displays attitudes of worldliness.

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — **the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life** — is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; **but he who does the will of God abides forever.**

b) Many Christians are failing to use moral restraint. We must ensure that our speech is pure and our dress is appropriate. Guard your influence!

Titus 2:12 teaching us that, **denying ungodliness and worldly lusts**, we should **live soberly, righteously, and godly** in the present age,

2 Corinthians 6:17..... **"Come out from among them And be separate**, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: **"Evil company corrupts good habits."**

3. A venue of lack of tongue control

A. Often times Facebook makes it easy to exercise “loose lips” or “loose fingers” when typing.

- 1) There are disruptions, distortions, evil surmising, gossip, and rumoring finding its way on Facebook. This being the case, then it also means that these sins have already found their way into the hearts, thinking, attitudes, language, and conduct of those who post such destructive words.**

a) We must “think” before we post!

James 3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.
See how great a forest a little fire kindles!

Ephesians 4:15 but, **speaking the truth in love**, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ —

4. It can consume our time.

A. We are taught that we must be good stewards of our time.

Ephesians 5:15-16 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

B. Facebook can be addicting, stealing away hours of productivity that we can have in Bible study, school, or on our jobs.

- 1) In many cases it would be more productive to just call our friend – they can then hear our voice.**

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

Conclusion

1. **Facebook can be a tool for good or evil. Ultimately, we decide the direction we take in our own life. But remember this:**

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 Do you not know that **you are the temple of God** and that **the Spirit of God dwells in you?** If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. **For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.**

2. **We have put on Christ and He is to abide in us. We are to imitate our Lord and Savior in all we say, do and the way we dress.**

1 Corinthians 11:1 Imitate me, **just as I also imitate Christ.**

3. **As Christians, we should remember what Paul said to Timothy and then make sure that others can see our progress in Christ.**

1 Timothy 4:12-16 Let no one despise your youth, **but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.** Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. **Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.** Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. **Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.**

