

Social Media:

Consequences Both Positive and Negative

Introduction

- 1. In this lesson, I want to focus on the positive and negative consequences of using social media.**
- 2. Christians today have many 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 and ultimately completely away from God.**
 - 1) Things that we must be careful of are popular social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Google Plus, Instagram, Meetup, Youtube, TikTok and 100's more.**
 - 2) In addition, we have to be careful about other media such as: Television, movies, internet browsing, books, magazines, etc.**
- 3. In 2021, over 4.26 billion people were using social media worldwide, a number projected to increase to almost six billion in 2027. Many Christians have one or several of these site pages.**

(statista.com)

 - A. Social media and all other types of media can be a great benefit or it can be a great detriment to our spiritual life.**
 - B. When beginning to use social networking sites, please remember who's friend we 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:**

Social Media: A Positive Tool

- 1. One can use social media 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.**
- C. Other ways that social media can prove positive is:**
 - 1) Making new friends.**
(Something in common - Christians, preachers, etc.)
 - 2) Comforting others.**
(Empathizing with others/Going through similar ordeals)
 - 3) Speedy communication.**
(Helps when there's little time)
 - 4) Making our distance apart "not so far."**
(Distance is nothing when communicating)
 - 5) Building our relationships.**
(Staying in touch with those we have a lot in common)
 - 6) Helps news travel faster, keeping us informed. Such as all the communication that was necessary to organize and hold this workshop.**

Social Media: A Negative Tool

1. As good as social media can be for the Christian, I have seen much more often than not, that many Christians cannot be seen any differently than the millions of others on these sites.
 - 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 social networking sites.
 - 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. Other negative consequences of social media include:
 - 1) Depression/Anxiety (countless hours daily browsing)
 - 2) Cyberbullying (cruel people have this platform)
 - 3) Fear of missing out (on positive experiences of others)
 - 4) Unrealistic expectations (postings real or staged?)
 - 5) General Addiction - destroys attention span over time**2 Corinthians 10:12**
2. Make sure that ANY media that is used does not diminish our time, loyalty, faithfulness, and **love for God!**

Mark 12:30 and you shall **love the lord** your God with all your **heart**, with all your **soul**, with all your **mind**, and with all your **strength**....

Be Mindful of the Consequences

Luke 9:62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, **having put his hand to the plow, and looking back**, is fit for the kingdom of God."

1. **The positive: Keeping our hand to the plow**
2. **The negative: looking back**
3. **NOTHING can come before duty to God and spiritual commitment.**
 - A. **When one sets a spiritual course, he must remain true to his commitment.**
4. **EXAMPLE OF THE FARMER PLOWING (Hand Plow)**
 - A. **When one takes his eye off his spiritual goal, he is not worthy of the kingdom.**
 - B. **In the eyes of God, he is a double-minded man.**

James 1:8 he is a double-minded man, **unstable** in all his ways.

- C. **The affections for the world disqualify him.**

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that **friendship with the world** is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world **makes himself an enemy of God.**

- D. **We must understand that those whom we associate with ALWAYS influences us for good or bad.**

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

5. Bible examples and the reality of the consequences based on our decisions in life:
 - A. Paul taught:
Philippians 3:13-14
 - B. The Hebrew writer:
Hebrews 12:1-2
 - C. Peter warned:
2 Peter 2:20-21
6. Beware of the consequences (good or bad) that will result from the counsel we seek in life. Do we listen and abide in good counsel or bad counsel? We choose our path. Choose wisely!
 - A. Rehoboam's example:
1 Kings 12:3-11
 - 1) His mind was made up on what he wanted to do – he just looked for someone that would tell him “music to his ears.”
 - 2) Rehoboam made a bad choice, and there were bad results. There are always consequences.
 - 3) Our choices have ramifications for us and for others. Every day we are bombarded with dozens of messages through social media advising us on what to buy, how to be successful, where to find fun and pleasure, etc.
- ◆ By way of advertisements, newspaper articles, sermons, seminars and conversations with friends – we are pushed to follow certain lines of conduct. **We must choose wisely!**

Stay Focused on Our Reward

The Faithful:

Hebrews 11:15-16 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they **would have had opportunity to return**. But **now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country**. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

1. **Over some 200 years from Abraham to the death of Jacob, if anyone of them had a desire to return to their original homeland, they could have.**
 - A. **But they made no use of any one of those opportunities to go back. Canaan was the land of God's promise and it was there that they were convinced they must remain!**
2. **These faithful followers of God were looking to God for the answers to all of life's questions, and trusted Him for guidance in all their steps.**
 - A. **Consequences: To refuse to confess Christ before men is to risk the Lord's denial later.**
Matthew 20:32-33
2 Timothy 1:8, 12
Luke 9:26

Moses:

Hebrews 11:24-26

3. **Unlike many of the people, Moses never once "turned back in his heart toward Egypt."**
 - A. **He believed fully and completely in God and he believed God regarding the promises He had made to Abraham and his descendants. **He looked to the reward!****

Conclusion

1. **Social media can be a tool for the positive or the negative (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 even 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.**

4. **Each one of us has to choose between life and death, between holiness and sin, between Christ and the world, between fellowship with the children of God & friendship with the world.**

May God help each one of us to make wise choices in light of eternity!

**Your Talk Talks and your Walk Talks,
but you Walk Talks more than your Talk Talks**

Invitation

Date

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(Prepared for Preacher's Workshop in Tampa, FL on the theme of "Glorifying God Through Social Media")