

## The Dangers of Social Media – 09/06/20

**TEXT- Pro 18:1-9** *Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom. 2 A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself. 3 When the wicked cometh, then cometh also contempt, and with ignominy reproach. 4 The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook. 5 It is not good to accept the person of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgment. 6 A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes. 7 A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul. 8 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. 9 He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.*

**INTRO** – Here are just a few dangers involved with social media:

**Pro 29:11** *A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.*

**1 Pe 4:15** *But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.*

Every one of the ten commandments can easily be violated on social media. The Bible says nothing directly about Facebook. The Scriptures were finalized more than 1,900 years before this social media site came to life on the Internet. What we can do, however, is examine how principles found in the Scriptures can be applied to social media Web sites.

Computers allow people to create gossip faster than ever before. Once created, sites like Facebook make it easy for gossip (and for those using it for nobler purposes) to reach a wide audience. The audience can be not just your friends or even those who live near you, but the whole world! People can say almost anything online and get away with it, especially when they do so anonymously. Romans 1 lists "backbiters" as a category of sinner to avoid becoming **Romans 1:29 - 30**.

### **1. Validation – Seeking the worlds approval**

We've always wanted to be accepted. Social media has just exacerbated this desire in the form of likes and retweets. Seeking validation online is a danger because it has us relinquish our power to affirm ourselves even more. We now look for even more external measurements to our worth.

When we seek validation, we attempt to define who we are online, not have online complement who we are. Let's cut all the validation at the roots and get back to being our true selves.

### **2. Comparison- Likes, shares, Friends, comments, views**

When we see other's accomplishments, how many of us envy them? How many of us compare instead of connect? Like validation, we've always done this with our peers. But with social media's ability to edit our image, we now

do this even more. It's time for us to stop comparing ourselves to others and place the power back in our own hands to judge our worth.

### **3. Bitterness - Platform to vent feelings**

I often get bitter that one person liked another status and not mine, or that one person shared a moment with another friend and not me. This is ultimately a heart problem on my part. But how many of you also grow bitter from what you see on social media? Maybe the best cure is to step back from the platform that only fosters a bitter heart.

### **4. Caring about the Wrong Things - Vanity trap**

I used to care more about real, tangible things—like my relationships with others. Now I find that being watered down with cares about a virtual world—how my image looks on social media or how many "likes" my Instagram photo got. Give priority to what happens in the real and visible present, not what occurs in a virtual world.

### **5. Noise - Identification trap**

Before, I used to really take the time to digest content. I would read longer paragraphs online and thoroughly enjoy it. But now, I only read lists online. The clutter and barrage of noise has led me to only consume bullet point information. This way, I could read everything given to me.

The reality is, however, you filter what's noise from what's essential, and you only consume the beneficial essential. This unfortunately becomes increasingly difficult with social media sharing everything.

### **6. Convenient Friendships**

We don't have much risk with our relationships today. It is now hard to call someone on the phone because that involves giving something of ourselves. Instead of risking, it's easier to glance at someone's profile to learn about his or her world. Unfortunately, this makes a relationship convenient and easy, when the best foundation for a long lasting relationship is one that's willing to risk.

### **7. Wasting Time**

Time is valuable, which means we shouldn't waste it with people, interactions and advertisements that offer no return for our attention. Social media forces us to waste time with these sort of things. It's better to invest our valuable time in something that gives the world—and us—more value.

### **Time trap – 3.5 hours on social media**

### **Distraction trap**

### **8. Isolation - Secrecy trap**

On social media, we are in a world within a world. It's easy to shut ourselves off from interaction because we believe our interaction online is enough. It's easy to not see people all day, but rather see them online.

Distance yourself from this tendency to isolate. Allow social media to push you in the world even further, not away from it.

It is just as equal of a danger to stay on social media than it is to leave. What this means is we are free to choose. We are free to pick which set of problems we want. We can decide how we want to improve our online experience. And most of all, we can choose which measures will help us honor God and live more like His Son in this world. The choice is yours.

### **9. Selfishness - Covetousness trap**

**Lev 19:16** *Thou shalt not go up and down as a **talebearer** among thy people neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.*

**Pro 11:13** *A **talebearer** revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.*

**Pro 18:1-9** *Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom. 2 A fool hath no delight in understanding,*

**Pro 18:13** *He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.*

**Pro 20:19** *He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.*

**Pro 26:20** *Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.*

**Pro 26:22** *The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.*

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**Exo 20:16** *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*

**Pro 17:27-28** *He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit. 28 Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.*

**1 Co 15:33** *Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*

**1 Ti 5:13** *And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.*

**2 Th 3:11** *For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are **busybodies**.*

**Tit 2:3-5** *The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; 4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.*

**CONCL –**

### **1. Restrain Your Words**

“Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent” ([Proverbs 17:27-28](#)).

God’s people need to know when to say something and when to restrain our words. We need to be people with a “cool spirit,” as opposed to a hot temper.

### **2. Don’t Isolate Yourself**

“Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgement” ([Proverbs 18:1](#)).

If we’re not careful, social media becomes an “echo chamber,” where we only hear voices who agree with us. If someone says something we don’t like, we block them or unfriend them. The problem is, some of those voices may be people with “sound judgement.” The only way to grow is to allow those with differing viewpoints to speak into our lives.

### **3. Take Pleasure in Understanding**

“A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion” ([Proverbs 18:2](#)).

The application of this passage is obvious, isn’t it? Social media has magnified this kind of foolishness. We all want to share our opinion, but we don’t want to listen. We don’t want to understand. We just want to be heard. It’s time for that to change.

### **4. Don’t Dishonor Yourself**

“When wickedness comes, contempt comes also, and with dishonor comes disgrace” ([Proverbs 18:3](#)).

If you post or get “tagged” in something that reveals wicked behavior, don’t get upset when people “judge you.” Dishonorable behavior, brings disgrace and contempt.

### **5. Be a Bubbling Brook**

“The words of a man’s mouth are deep waters; the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook” ([Proverbs 18:4](#))

Strive to be a wise presence online. Let your words and the things you share be refreshing and life-giving. Words are so powerful. They can either heal or they can destroy. Choose your words wisely.

### **6. Don’t Invite a Beating**

“A fool’s lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating. A fool’s mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul” ([Proverbs 18:6-7](#)).

Don’t be the kind of person who invites a virtual or a verbal “beating.” When you share an article that is filled with hateful and derogatory comments about a politician; you know you are going to make that politician’s supporters very angry. Ask yourself, is it worth it? Does this really need to be said? Am I being mean, cruel, or hurtful?

## 7. Don't be Slack in Your Work

“Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys” ([Proverbs 18:9](#)).

Social media can consume so much of our time and energy. Time and energy that might be taking away from work. This Proverb says that when a person is lazy in their job, they're pretty close to being someone who intentionally sabotages the efforts of their team.

## 8. Don't Answer Before You Hear

“If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame” ([Proverbs 18:13](#)).

People comment on articles without actually reading them. The headline of an article will pose a question and people will attempt to answer the question without actually reading the article. We must be people who *listen* before – and more often than – we *speak*.

**Gal 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

**2 Jn 1:12** *Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.*

**1 Jn 2:15-17** *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*