

# (A)Social Networking

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

The best social network you can have is a local Bible-believing, Bible-practicing church. It is a social network that connects saved people in one body - the body of Christ - and the Holy Spirit puts it together. What more do you want?

In these modern days, however, some folks try to complicate things and suppose that they need to be constantly involved in social networking websites online. That is getting out of hand and when you study the effects, you come to the conclusion that online social networking is in fact **asocial**. It harms human relationships in the highest degrees and destroys families.

What comes under the guise of promoting "friendship" is in reality a tool of the devil to seduce young people to immorality and turn them into zombies who constantly have to check messages in their social network while neglecting family and friends in the real world. Isn't it sickening that some folks try to build a social network in virtual reality but neglect their children, their husband or other family members and friends? If you want to love your neighbor, then start with the people close to you in your family and neighborhood instead of trying to get along with people in a virtual reality.

Online social network often contain immoral graphics, movies and images that promote adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness and worldliness. In fact one major US social networking site recently discarded 90000 of its members because they were registered sex offenders. What a cesspool of sin? What really needs to happen is that these websites be shut down altogether. But Christian who believe the Bible ought to have enough sense to abstain from such sites and to make sure that they appreciate those preachers who have warned them of that danger lurking online. But many people who call themselves "Christians" today play with the fire (Prov. 6:27) and get involved in these online social networks and through (willful) ignorance get involved with bad company. You, my friend, should know better than that and follow the advice of the Psalmist: **"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."** Psalm 1:1. Online social networks are full of malicious, vile language and a lot of slander, libel and backbiting. That's why these networks are not even a proper environment to witness for Jesus Christ. If you are saved, and you have been involved in online social networks, it would be best for your testimony if you deleted everything you ever wrote and cancel all accounts.

In Christian homes it is necessary that the father, the head of the home, is in control of what media comes in or goes out. He needs to protect his family. There should no participation in online social networking be allowed in a home that professes to be Christian. Teenagers have better things to do. In fact, I don't even see a need for cell phones in their hands. Let them learn to pray and communicate with the Lord, first of all. I rejoice that when I was in my teenage years there were no computer games and no cell phones. That was in the 1990s. I

praise Jesus for the absence of all such digital junk. And I also praise Jesus that there was a Bible, Christian radio and godly books in my teenage years. There was a forest for hiking and cross-country running. Most of all, I praise Jesus that there was no peer clique in those years, but there were a few good churches that I appreciate.

Online social networks undermine real human relationships and fellowship. I have observed how a husband & wife lost trust in each other because one spouse was addicted to social networking that she kept telling private details of their relationship to peers on that online social network. Finally, the spouse addicted to social networking completely ignored her companion, and was more influenced by the crowd online at the social networking site. **People today obviously need to relearn the proper respect for privacy.** What happens in private needs not to be told in online social networks. People have a warped judgment as to what is public and what is private. Pictures containing nudity are found in advertising in public. But decency demands that belongs into privacy. Modern people have it all mixed up. They want to shut up the preaching of the gospel and claim that religion is a private matter. No. Faith in Jesus concerns the public. Modern people want to put displays of intimacy everywhere in public, esp. in the media. But decency demands that intimacy belongs into privacy. Christians who believe the Bible really have to separate themselves from this modern secular worldview.

I also notice that stay-at-home moms are often victims of online social networking. While they are alone at home the addiction to social networking begins. The saying is true that the devil has work for idle hands. While the Proverbs 31 woman remains virtuous and busy doing good, the modern woman has been discouraged by the devil about staying at home, so she thinks she is "imbalanced" and "lonely" and turns to the computer to find a social network. This often is the beginning of the end of a marriage or a family. It often escalates to the point where the online community means more to that woman than her family. Ungodly advertisements nowadays often show scarcely-clad women with a laptop. The best thing that women can do is grab the laptop and smash it against the wall or break it in half. Marketing knows how to make money with the social networking addiction. What the forbidden fruit was to Eve, that is exactly what the social networks are today for many women. Moreover, the online communities in those social networks have caused women to become **"tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not."** **1. Timothy 5:13. Most of the things said or written in social networking sites ought not to be said or written.** If you don't understand that, you are simply too naive.

The Bible teaches a great principle. It is wrong for a Christian to seek counsel from questionable sources on the Internet while bypassing the local church. I understand that lots of churches nowadays have absolved from teaching the Bible. It is considered too "controversial" or "divisive", but often you have to have division before you have unity. A little subscribed Sunday School quarterly won't do it. A local church needs a leadership that is continually given to prayer and the ministry of the word. Acts 6:4. Churches have often turned into mere social clubs that do not really people guidance and leadership as to how they should live their lives in obedience to God. Local churches need to provide their people with both the milk and the meat of the word. The main point is: If you are saved, then get your counsel and advice from the word of God and not from an online social network. Seek counsel from mature Christians in your local congregation. You dishonor Christ, when you bypass the local

church and seek for answers in doubtful online communities. Stay away from these places! Christian wives need to understand that is contrary to God's plan, if they seek for things in social networks, while not communicating with their husband. The Bible says that a woman is to be under obedience. And here is a key truth:

**“And if they will learn any thing , let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.”** 1. Corinthians 14:35.

A Christian woman will ask her husband, if she needs information. She will not ask strangers in online social networks or any other clique of tattlers and gossipers. It is the duty of the Christian husband to teach his wife. The Bible says in 1. Tim. 2:11: **Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.** The husband needs to be able to gently communicate concepts, ideas and doctrines. The wife needs to have the submission to follow her husband in those things. That is the Bible plan. If that plan is followed, there is no need to go online to ask anybody else.

I say it again: **The best social network is the local church.** The only social networks that God established is the family and the church. We don't need any online social networks where rotten people and characterless cliques corrupt good manners through evil communications (1. Cor. 15:33) and undermine true friendship, fellowship and families.

Do you appreciate a clean car or a clean house? Then be consistent and delete the unclean from your computer. In fact, remove all unclean media as the Christians at the church in Ephesus did (Acts 19:19). Clean up!

If you truly love your neighbor, love your family and even love your enemies as Christ taught you, will you please abstain from online social networking? Have respect for privacy. Don't publish in social networks what belongs into your privacy or the privacy of others. Character counts.

Instead of getting addicted to online social networks, texting or instant messaging, why don't you start check your B-mail every morning? What is B-mail? Your Bible! Send instant messages to God throughout the day! How do you do that? Pray, pray, pray! God is interested in hearing from you! He will hear from Heaven. If you like texting, please get some paper texts - we call them gospel tracts - and hand them to others.

You don't need to seek the bad company of online social networking. First of all, you need a saving, living relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ. Don't seek for fellowship in virtual reality. Seek God and trust Jesus Christ for the salvation of your soul. He shed His blood for you on the cross. He loved you first, so that you can love Him now. Won't you come now and repent of your sin and receive Jesus Christ as your Savior?