

Homebuilder's

Making Marriage Work in a Broken World

Lesson 16: Part 3 Technology and the Christian Life

Text: Ephesians 4:29 | Titus 3:10

- 5.17 billion social media users in the world.
 - The average SM user spends 2 hours 20 minutes per day on SM platforms.
 - Around 14% of our waking lives.
 - YouTube is the most popular SM platform in the world.
 - The SM app value was estimated at \$49 billion in 2022.
 - Short videos are the most engaged type of content online.
 - “50% of Millennials place their faith in social media influencers’ product recommendations, surpassing their trust in their favorite celebrities, which stands at 38%.^[11]The key driver behind this trust? Authenticity: An impressive 88% of Millennials say they value authenticity in the influencers they follow—laying out a clear framework, rooted in relatability and sincerity, for marketers to follow.”
- I. Social media strongly affects us.
- A. Social media makes us feel lonely.
 - 1. A huge irony about social media is that it makes us anti-social.
 - 2. We need in-person relationships.
 - B. Social media makes us feel inadequate.
 - 1. We constantly compare ourselves with others.
 - 2. We only see their highlight reels.
 - C. Social media allows us to live a lie.
 - 1. We project the image we want others to see.
 - D. As Christians, we are strangers and pilgrims on this earth.
 - 1. Stranger does not mean that we are “weird”.
 - 2. Rather, it means that this world is not our home.
 - 3. As Christians, we are living for another world.
 - 4. Our use of social media should reflect that.
- II. Here are some questions to ask before using social media.
- A. Is this the best use of my time?
 - B. Is what I am about to post going to help or hurt someone?
 - C. Is what I am about to post true?
 - D. Are the people I am following giving me godly input?
 - E. How does my use of social media affect my testimony?
 - F. How does my use of social media affect my soul?
 - G. What are you exposing your heart to?
- III. Principles to abide by on social media.
- A. Abide by biblical principles of speech. (Ephesians 4:29)
 - B. Be slow to post. (James 1:19-21)
 - C. Strive for meekness. (2 Timothy 2:23-25)
 - D. Avoid silly arguments. (2 Timothy 2:23)
 - E. Don't Gossip. (2 Timothy 2:16 | Colossians 3:8-9)

F. Don't seek attention. (Romans 14:19 | Philippians 2:3-4)

IV. Kids/Teenagers and social media.

A. Most used platforms among teens.

1. YouTube 95%
2. TikTok 63%
3. Snapchat 60%
4. Instagram 59%

B. Dangers of social media for teens.

1. Exposure to sexual deviance, influencers, and other harmful content.
 - a. In many cases, teens can be influenced merely by exposure—this is called “peer contagion”.
 - b. Areas teens are susceptible to peer contagion are: aggression, bullying, depression, disordered eating, drug use, bisexuality, suicide, and transgenderism.
 - c. Peer contagion differs from peer pressure.
 - i. Peer pressure is the feeling that one must do the same things as other people in others in their age or social group to be liked or respected.
 - ii. Peer contagion is “a mutual influence process that occurs between an individual and a peer and includes behaviors and emotions that potentially undermine one's own development or cause harm to others.”
 - iii. Peer contagion is the spread of attitudes, beliefs, and behavior via exposure.
2. Desire for affirmation.
 - a. Social media fuels the desire for affirmation from likes, shares, etc.
 - b. It is dangerous to attach one's feeling of value to reactions online.
3. There are better things they can do with their time.
 - a. Instead of living in a virtual world, our kids could read, learn a skill, etc.

V. What about Christian liberty?

A. You do have Christian liberty. (1 Corinthians 5:13)

1. As Baptists, we believe in individual soul-liberty.
2. Some of you will continue using social media like everyone else.
3. Some of you will limit social media.
4. Some of you will completely disengage.

B. Where does liberty end?

1. Your liberty ends where God has ended it.
2. Love limits liberty.
3. Liberty should not be used as a cover for sinful practices.

Next week we will cover “Entertainment and the Christian Life”.