

Shirksville, Sun PM
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The Dangers of Social Networking

I. Introduction

A. This was an intimidating assignment

1. I am preaching to a narrow audience.
 - a. Most people know about what they think they need to know.
These kind of discussions are mostly to change someone else's mind.
 - b. Most people are sitting here hoping someone else will catch on.

2. This a broad subject...

The Wikipedia definition was over 32 pages long.

3. I feel shifty about my real knowledge of it.

- What I sense and What I believe
- What I actually know.

B. The focus really is very temporal; but the involvements are deeply spiritual.

It will take effort to keep this on a spiritual plane.

But, this is church and we are meeting with God.

So we must ask the question- "What does the Bible say?"

Romans 15: 1-7

- a. The Christian brotherhood is one where we help each other
 1. A community of help each other (rather than) ourselves.
 2. The focus of our "networking" is the betterment of others.
- b. The Christian brotherhood copies Christ.
 1. Was Jesus a "techy"?
 - a. Would He have had a Twitter account?
 - b. What would have said?
 - c. How many followers would He have had?
 2. Would Jesus have had a "better" ministry with today's technology?
 3. The ministry of Christ was "hands on."

a. Jesus went to the people; they came to him.

There were at least 3 times that He sent people to represent him and His kingdom, but He went to them or they came to Him.

He did ministry FTF (face-to-face)

b. Jesus had mass media options at His fingertips.

1. When He was born, the angels sang. The star appeared in the east. God spoke from heaven...
2. Even though His first generation of followers wrote letters, He did not.

Paul, Peter, John (Sunday School lesson)

c. The ultimate purpose of our brotherhood is to GLORIFY GOD. V6

As we consider social networking, let us somehow attempt to let our

small minds hang on to this.

Like any other sin..... The number one danger of any given subject on earth, we stand in jeopardy of not glorifying God. This is true of social networking.

3. I Corinthians 10: 31-33

Everything we do must.....

Glorify God

Profit others, not myself.

These are sneaky principles to connect to a group.

We see failure in others; not so much in ourselves.

II. What is social networking?

A. The dictionary-

The creation and maintenance of business and personal relationships online.

1. Whatever we are doing, it is online....(the internet)

The internet is not inherently bad, but neither is it inherently good.

2. Whatever we are doing, it is believed to be relationships.

3. This is very broad.... Very vague.

B. Wikipedia

1. 28 pages... Not going to read

too long.... Too technical...

2. Pertinent Data

a. As of 2013, 70% of Americans use some form of social networking services.

b. Lists approximately 10 benefits and 18 concerns.

3. What is it?

a. It is a platform to build social networks or social relations among people who similar interests, activities, backgrounds or real-life connections.

1. Facebook-

a. Recognized as the king of social networking

b. Started as a networks for college students at Harvard U.

c. It is much larger than we can imagine.

1. 900,000,000 active users

3x the population of United States

2. 2.1 billion participants

1/3 the population of the world.

3. The next closest competitor is Twitter

300 million

Google + 100 million

d. Much of our focus gravitates toward Facebook and Twitter because those two combined equal everything else combined.

2. Specific networks

Wikipedia has a running list of over 150 network sites..

Some are overseas.

a. Caring Bridge- for medical stories.

- b. LinkedIn- for business professions
- c. Pinterest- for recipes (I made that up)
- d. Menno Discuss- for Mennonites.

3. Main Kinds of Networks

- a. Category or places
- b. Friendship connection (defined by self-description pages)
- c. Review or recommendation system based on trust.

B. Social networking services make it possible to connect people who share interests and activities across political, economic, and geographic borders.

1. Social networking has always been around.

- a. It could be argued that the tower of Babel was a social network.
- b. With the telephone came the party line then conference lines.

Today even the Old Order Mennonites and the Amish have chat lines (I can give you the number after the service)

- c. The Budget is a social network.

2. "With internet technology as a supplement to fulfill its needs, social networking is in turn affecting everyday life including relationships in school, church, entertainment and family."

- a. With the Budget, the network coughed every two weeks.

And then the Mom of the house wasn't worth anything for the next few hours.

- b. With Twitter, this Mom is not worth anything all the time.

- c. Internet exploded social networking.

1. People now stop mid-stream of conversation to read or respond to a message from half way around the world.

2. People now spend much of their time reading about things they wouldn't have bothered with.

C. Social networking is a resource for advertising and marketing

I understand this point the least.

- #### 1. Social networks are used to observe the behavioral patterns of people.

- a. If I always read the Lebanon County letters in the budget but never read the Kalona Iowa ones. My Budget will list Lebanon County first at the front.

- b. This observation will be given to the Budget.

2. This becomes a powerful tool of efficiency.

I go right to the place I want to be.

D. Social networking is largely individual driven.

- #### 1. I decide which ones I want to be part of.

The number one reason that I am not on Facebook is because I decided not to be on.

2. I decide what I want to be put on my page, my blog, my projection.

People can comment below..... if I allow them to be part.

I can dismiss them... if I want to, when I want to.

3. This feeling of control is both integral and motivational.

It is also addicting.

Remember Romans 15: 1-3

III. The Dangers

A. The danger of lost privacy.

1. Anytime information is sent online, we must understand what happens to it.

a. It is available.

If this is available to someone whom we wanted to get it, that's good.

If this is available to someone who is harvesting it, that's bad.

b. When it's available it's out of our control.

- Pictures, voice recordings and statements become free trade.

c. Many is the poor afflicted soul who has faced the horror of this free trade.

Political candidates, girlfriends, married men have fallen like trees.

d. Men have lost jobs... Marriages have been destroyed....

Political campaigns have been hijacked....

2009... The Philadelphia Eagles got rid of a star player.

e. Marketing gurus will target you.

The weather report.... Lawn mower ads.

2. We are created beings intended to operate in a private world.

a. From the beginning, humans have operated with a need for quiet time.

"Come ye apart" "in your closet" "meditations" are Bible terms exhorting or explaining ourselves.

Show me a person with no private world and I'll see a wretched person.

Even Jesus Christ Himself was known to go into a mountain to pray.

b. The loss of private world is destructive, not edifying.

B. The danger of hypocrisy

1. It is a commonly known problem that people can project themselves differently that they actually are in real life. This is an old problem.

Actually, the Apostle Paul was accused of this.

2. In social networking, it's a common for people to make statements of criticism or contempt or crass praise. Then when the individual is exposed, the excuse is..

"That's not me."

It is me... Believe it!!!

Again and again, people said things they shouldn't say, didn't mean, or can't back up in real life.

Why would we do that?

3. Ephesians 5:4- Avoid foolish talking....

2. Not only does social networking encourage us to display ourselves. It seems to push us into an odd addiction with it.

C. The danger of trolling and bullying.

1. To fish with a line; to take a hook and a line and pull it through the water to hook fish.

This is an apt illustration of what some people will do with social networking.

2. Megan Meirs (Josh Evans) My Space

- a. She hung herself because she was being verbally harassed by Josh.

- b. That's bad... Josh Evans doesn't exist... Never did.

- c. A fictional character created and accessed by 11 school students.

Intentionally created to target Megan.

- d. Thankfully, this is not a big problem.... But it's a growing problem.

D. The danger of egoism and narcissism.

1. Egoism- the doctrine that the individual self-interest is the actual motive of all consideration.

Narcissism- Love for one's own body.

This is way too much self-focus. Self-projection occupies a high percentage of social networking.

The top 10 networks in popularity are particularly rank with this problem.

2. This is pride. Egoism assumes that everyone wants to hear about me.

Romans 12:3 Don't think too highly of yourself.

- a. The twitter account

Beautiful day.... Going to church... Coming home... Finishing lunch...

- b. Erica's sign

I don't have a Facebook or Twitter account, so I just go around announcing out loud what I'm doing at random times. I've got 3 followers so far but I think 2 of them are cops.

E. The danger of wasted time.

In South Korea, there is an actual case of a home where the children starved to death because of the parent's addiction to online time, mostly social networking.

Parents have starved their children for other things...

Many people starve their visible relations for on-line ones.

In my own administration, we've had to confront a home where the normal duties of the home were neglected in exchange for hours of on-line time.

IV. Brotherhood or networking?

Which is authentic community?

A. The four ingredients of community- Given by Shane Hipps

Mennonite pastor and blogger for Christianity, Phoenix AR

1. Shared history

- a. Events which have happened to us together- Remember when?

Families have tons of this..

Congregations develop this..

- b. The common experience builds community.

2. Permanence

- a. This is what you get when you have connected shared history.

3. Proximity

- a. Close enough to experience it together.

4. Shared imaginations (visions)

- B. Dunbars Number

1. The suggested cognitive limit to the number of people with who one can maintain social relations.

2. Bill Gore, owner of Gore Tex...

- 150 people is the maximum number of employees.

3. Robin Dunbar 1992

4. Numbers of denominators of three up and down