



- Consider also:
- In the last 2 years, with Covid-19, internet and social media numbers have substantially increased - some out of necessity - work, organizations, and even churches have adapted.

Social  
Media

- The point:
- Whether we like it or not, social media and the internet are here to stay, especially for the foreseeable future.  
We HAVE TO address this as Christians

Social  
Media

- We must consider that social media is STILL communication!
- We are still letting our lights shine even while online!
- **Colossians 4:6**, speech “seasoned with salt”
- **1 Peter 2:11-12**, honorable conduct
- **Philippians 1:27**, conduct worthy of the gospel

Social  
Media

- Social media is morally neutral
- It is not sinful to be on social media and it can accomplish much good.
- As with many things (such as money), it is about HOW you use it

Social  
Media

- Much good can come from social media and the internet.
- Dealing with this pandemic, social media and internet has been a tremendous help (blessing) in many ways.  
Many churches have increased their “online presence” during this time.

Social  
Media

- Much good can come from social media and the internet.
- Opportunities to communicate with others around the world - including friends and acquaintances

Social  
Media

- Much good can come from social media and the internet.
- Opportunities to disseminate good information rapidly.
- It can be used to encourage and make a positive impact on society.

Shining  
Lights  
Online

It is a great way to learn - both Biblically and auxiliary topics.

## Letting Your Light Shine Online

Lights in every area

- You ARE being an example!
- Your circle of friends, and their “friends” and likely beyond, are watching you - what you say, how you respond, and what you post!
- Who knows how that will be used in the future?

Social  
Media

Once you post something, it is there forever!

- What you post reflects the REAL you!
- **Proverbs 4:23** - keep your heart! Does your online community see that God is important to you? Do they even know that you are a Christian?

Social  
Media

What do they see? Your clothing, interests, your language, where you go and when, etc.

- What you post reflects the REAL you!
- Note: Today, many employers will look at your social media profile. Will they see foolishness in the past that you now regret? WILL this affect your ability to try

Social  
Media

and reach someone with the gospel?

- What is it doing to your ego?
- **Proverbs 16:18** - pride goes before destruction ... **1 Peter 5:5-6** - God resists the proud, gives grace to the humble
- Many use online activity to promote themselves

Social  
Media

How many “likes”? “Guilt messages”? “Click bait”?

- What is it doing to your ego?
- Does your online persona reflect the real you? Or are you “putting on a show”? (NOTE: It is still the real you!)  
Are you posting to boost your ego and/or belittle others  
(intentionally or not)?  
Social Media (cf. **Luke 18:10-12**)

- What is it doing to your ego?
- I need to consider:  
Am I being humble as I “share”?  
If you need social media to prop you up, you have deeper problems than who you are externally.  
Am I being HONEST?  
(cf. Matthew 15:18-19)  
**Ephesians 4:25;**  
Social Media **Proverbs 12:22;**  
**Romans 12:3**

- Is it a wise use of your time?
- **Ephesians 5:16** - redeeming the time
- How many spend an inordinate amount of time online and with social media
- How does your internet time compare to your personal time reading the Bible and praying?  
Social Media

- How many are addicted to online activity? Is it ruling over you?
- It is said that behavioral addictions are harder to break than substances
- What is the first thing you do when you get up?  
What would happen if you lost your internet connection or phone for a week?  
Social Media **1 Corinthians 6:12**

- Is it robbing me of personal interaction with others?
- Tied to previous points, many devote so much time to electronic mediums (social media, internet, video games, television, etc.) they are recluses in their homes. No life outside of their cyber circles  
Social Media

- Is it robbing me of personal interaction with others?
- While social media is communication, it is NOT face to face, nor is it as effective!  
Something is lost when you remove the person to person dynamic (e.g. think how this pandemic has affected personal contact).  
Social Media

- Is it robbing me of personal interaction with others?
- We are to be trying to reach others - **Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Peter 3:15**
- Internet can introduce the gospel, but rarely does it “close the sale”

Social  
Media

Consider human  
interaction in  
conversions in the  
Bible.

- Use social media for good
- We need to ask, “How is this helping me to let my light shine?”
- As noted, social media can reveal your true heart - for good or bad.

Social  
Media

- Use social media for good
  - Is what I am saying online damaging my influence? It is easy to say things online without the consequences of in person contact.
- This pandemic has brought out the best AND worst in many, including brethren. Online, I have seen “biting and devouring one another.” Acting and reacting harshly toward others (brethren and the world alike)

Social  
Media

- Use social media for good
- I expect ugly behavior from the world, but when my brethren share such things, we have problems.
- **DO NOT THINK** that what you post has no impact on Christ and His church!

Social  
Media

**Ephesians 4:31-32**

- Use social media for good
- Opportunities to evangelize, promote good works and good will
  - A way to reach others - targeted and more cost effective
  - I believe this can help us fulfill the great commission (**Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16**)

Social  
Media

- Use social media for good
- My personal opinion - IF you want people to know where you are at today, you **NEED** a website (not necessarily fancy, but location, meeting times, etc.)

Social  
Media

It is the **PRIMARY** way people search for congregations today

- Use social media for good
- Use it to let your light shine - don't be ashamed of His light.
- Use it to encourage others.
- Use it to calm fears and encourage trust in God.
- Use it to be different.
- |                 |                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Social<br>Media | Use it as a TOOL to reach others. |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|

