

'Sex Factor Session 3 - Internet Intimacy & The Porn Problem (Under 15s)'

Objectives for Session

<15: Basic introduction to the internet, how to navigate a righteous path through MSN, My Space, Bebo, Facebook etc, as well as some simple, age-appropriate teaching on the dangers of pornography, what the Bible has to say about it and how to stay safe.

Information breeds intimacy.

Married couples know things about each other that nobody else or very few other people do. This information places them in a position of intimacy. Parents know all sorts of private information about their children that very few people do. This is appropriate intimacy. By allowing people to access information about ourselves via Facebook etc, we open the door to inappropriate intimacy by people who do not know us and should not have access to very personal facts about our lives.

-All of the social networking sites are built around the idea of 'networking'. This can be extremely dangerous as we can allow strangers or mutual/vague acquaintances access to extremely personal information about us that we would never divulge in a normal 'social' setting (e.g. a party); the web is, by nature, disarming.

Word

What does the bible say about this subject?

Main Passage

1 Corinthians 6:9 - 20

You may say "I am allowed to do anything." But I reply, "Not everything is good for you." And even though "I am allowed to do anything," I must not become a slave to anything. V12 (NLT)

There is nothing inherently wrong with the internet or using websites like Facebook or YouTube, but we must not allow them to take control of our lives.

Key Points

- Just because the bible does not explicitly state that something is wrong does not mean it is good for us.
- There is a time and a place for the internet, but it should not control us.

Godly Guidelines

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Notes

Pornography

Pornography is focused on pleasing yourself, and is a very selfish and totally ungodly area. **Pornography is a sin.**

Because so many people are willing to pay money to look at images and videos etc, there is a huge amount of material available via the internet. Boys are naturally attracted to naked women and can therefore be easily sucked into pornography, through natural curiosity and peer pressure. We need to be aware of the potential danger and direct our energy into Godly activities and attitudes.

The bible is very clear that we should not allow this kind of stuff in our lives.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Phil 4:8

But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matt 5:28

On a practical note, there are websites that try and install applications onto your PC that link to inappropriate websites. To avoid this type of website, install a popup blockers, virus checker and spyware scanners and be careful about the type of websites that you visit. Trying to download illegally pirated music, software or films can put you at risk of downloading viruses, Trojans, spyware or other unwanted applications.

Key points:

- Make use of software designed to protect you e.g. antivirus software, firewalls, popup blockers etc
- Keep away from websites that promote illegal file sharing.
- It should be our aim to keep our minds pure.

More Safety Tips

The sites listed above have sections on how to safely use their websites:

1. YouTube Safety Tips (<http://youtube.com/t/safety>)
2. Facebook Safety (<http://www.facebook.com/help.php?safety>)
3. Bebo (<http://www.bebo.com/Safety.jsp>)
4. My Space safety Tips
(http://www.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=cms.viewpage&placement=safety_pagehome)